Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-LAT-95-097
Friday
19 May 1995

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-097 *19 May 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Multilateral Talks Continue in Switzerland

Al-Husayni Offers Jerusalem Talks

NC1805185895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 95

[Report by Muhammad Hunaybish from Montreux, Switzerland]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem and Israel's expropriation of land dominated the seventh round of the multilateral talks.

Some of the participants, such as the EU, tried to convince Israel to soften its stance on the issue but to no avail.

Before the end of the meeting a short time ago, Faysal al-Husayni [Palestinian official in charge of the Jerusalem issue] called on Israel to begin negotiations on Jerusalem. The call was regarded as a strategic change in the negotiations. As the Israeli delegation said, the call is being examined and a response will come in a matter of days.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Al-Husayni] ...therefore, the Palestinian (?delegation) forwarded an official request to immediately begin negotiations on the final stage, primarily on Jerusalem, under the Oslo Accord. The Oslo Accord stipulates that these negotiations must begin as soon as possible, but within three years at most. We believe that now is the best time.

Jerusalem's status cannot be left in limbo, and the Israelis cannot continue confiscating land, acting as they please in Jerusalem, and changing its demographic and geographic face, leaving us with no place to turn, either the United Nations or here.

Thus, we see that the best way is to start negotiations immediately so that Jerusalem can have a distinct status and we can reach a solution.

[Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry under secretary, not further identified, identified by caption] We were hoping that the United States would vote in favor of the Security Council resolution on Jerusalem because, as a sponsor of peace and in light of its international role, the vote of the United States is important. We regret that the United States was unable to vote for the draft resolution, which did not deal with the essence of the issue, but with measures contributing to a solution. We hope that this stand at the United Nations will not be vital but tactical, in light of the circumstances in the United States which we all know about. We also hope that the United States will maintain its known legal stand on Jerusalem's future. [end recording]

[Hunaybish] What is noteworthy at these meetings is that the participants have not reached any agreements or set any dates for further meetings as long as the Jerusalem issue is not settled.

Israel's Beilin Comments

TA1805142695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO has officially requested that Israel start discussing the permanent arrangement between the two sides. The request was submitted by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation for the multilateral talks steering committee session in Montreux, Switzerland. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that al-Husayni had consulted with Yasir 'Arafat before submitting his proposal.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that he approves the proposal, but that he does not believe the government will accept it. Senior Israeli sources who are involved in the negotiations with the PLO say that Israel rejects pushing forward negotiations on the permanent arrangement and insists on a gradual implementation of the Declaration of Principles as signed in Oslo. This was also agreed upon by the Palestinian Authority.

Rabin Orders Talks With Palestinians Accelerated

TA1905095995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 95 p 5

[Report by Hemi Shalev and 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the wake of positive reports about the action taken by the Palestinian Authority against terror, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given the "green light" to Israeli negotiators to try to reach an agreement with the Palestinians on the interim arrangements as soon as possible.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that security elements believe that 'Arafat has been conducting an effective policy against terror over recent weeks, although he cannot totally prevent attacks. The security elements believe that 'Arafat has for the first time issued "serious instructions" to the Palestinian Police and security service to take action against the terrorists. At the same time, he is trying to reach an agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad to stop their attacks on Israel.

These developments gradually led to a change in Rabin's attitude toward the negotiations with the Palestinians. The prime minister believes terror no longer impedes progress, but at the same time he thinks pressure on 'Arafat on this issue should not let up.

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The political sources noted that the sides had reached "the real tough issues" — primarily the status of East Jerusalem — in the talks about the elections in the territories. [passage omitted]

[A report by Aluf Ben on page A4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 May quotes "a senior political source involved in the negotiations on the interim arrangement" as having said yesterday that "the main problem in the negotiations with the Palestinians at the moment is the gap in perception concerning the Israeli Army's redeployment in the West Bank." As an example of this gap the source cited the fact that "the Palestinians demand to be handed not just the towns in the West Bank, but whole districts, including villages. At the same time, however, they are prepared to accept the security arrangements proposed by Israel."]

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid: Arab Summit To Be Held in Morocco

LD1805144295 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is at the end of a visit lasting several days. At Rabat-Sale airport 'Abd-al-Majid spoke to correspondents about the outcome of his visit and said: The talks focused on the Arab League Council's resolution issued on the 6 May which followed the extraordinary session of the League's council to discuss the situation in Jerusalem. I was honored to review this resolution with his majesty the king and to propose an invitation to hold a mini Arab summit. His Majesty welcomed this suggestion and I hope this Arab summit will convene as soon as possible and naturally will be convened in Morocco. We are now undertaking contacts with all concerned parties to decide the date, the participants, and the time.

Meets Mubarak on Preparations

NC1905053495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid upon his arrival in Egypt from Rabat yesterday. The Arab League chief said his talks with Mubarak dealt with Jerusalem and contacts to prepare for an Arab minisummit.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the U.S. position toward the Security Council draft resolution calling on Israel to repeal the confiscation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem conflicts with previous recorded U.S. positions stressing clearly that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territory and that its status cannot be harmed. He said the current U.S. position is diametrically opposed to official U.S. positions.

'No Arab Differences' on Summit

MM1805102795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 May 95 p 4

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo "before his departure for Morocco"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Husayn] Are there any differences on the question of holding a summit on Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-Majid] There are no Arab differences on holding the summit on Jerusalem. The Arabs are unanimous that this problem should be solved and pressure brought to bear on Israel to give up the land it confiscated, avoid any confiscations in the future,and not undermine the identity of Jerusalem, and to urge Israel to move on to the final phase related to Jerusalem.

[Abu-Husayn] Since you have called for it, why has the summit not been held?

['Abd-al-Majid] The matter is extremely serious and threatens to have dire consequences, particularly as Israel is going too far in its treatment of the Arab states. Therefore there must be consultations to consider all possibilities. As we know, the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers held at the beginning of this month instructed me to hold presummit consultations to agree on the steps to be taken especially if Israel maintained its line opposed to peace and the requirements of peace because that does not encourage continuation of the peace process. We will take into consideration the fact that the whole world, including the United States, wants peace.

[Abu-Husayn] But the American-Israeli peace appears to be different from the peace that would restore Arab rights. Do you not agree with that view?

['Abdd-al-Majid] The Arab states will never accept the defective peace which Israel is trying to impose on them and which is tantamount to imposing surrender. I believe that the United States will not support Israel in that position despite its current political support for it, because a just and lasting peace at all levels and an honorable resolution of the Jerusalem issue would ultimately lead to stability in the Middle East. We know that the United States is working toward that end. In this connection, we, as Arabs, emphasize that we will not give up our rights and will defend them with all means. This is a fact which Israel should well understand. It

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must not disregard Arab rights because, if it maintained this policy, it would reap nothing but regret for the loss of the Arab peace opportunity presented to it.

[Abu-Husayn] If there is such an Arab consensus, what is the purpose of your visit to Morocco?

['Abd-al-Majid] My visit to Morocco is at the invitation of King Hassan II of Morocco in response to the written message I sent him through Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. In my message I reaffirmed the Arab League's readiness to use its resources for the resolution of the Jerusalem question, but the Moroccan monarch preferred to discuss the matter before the summit, and so he will himself address the invitations to the states which will participate in the summit.

[Abu-Husayn] Will the Jerusalem summit seek to pass resolutions or specify the steps to be implemented immediately?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Jerusalem summit will examine all possibilities as well as the dangers resulting from Israel's expropriation of land in Jerusalem. We will also bring the Arab and Islamic worlds face to face with their responsibilities.

[Abu-Husayn] But the United States believes that the land expropriation problem should not be discussed at the Security Council nor even at an Arab summit conference, and that it is an issue for Palestinian-Israeli negotiation.

['Abd-al-Majid] That is an untrue and erroneous view. I expect the Security Council to pass a resolution on Jerusalem. It might take the form of a statement condemning Israel's confiscation of land in Jerusalem. Let us not forget that the U.S. Administration emphasized yesterday that the Israeli confiscation decision was detrimental to the peace process, and it underlined the importance of taking practical steps to rescue peace.

[Abu-Husayn] But Israel's plan seems to be to prevent movement to the final phase in order to block the Jerusalem issue.

['Abd-al-Majid] We are aware of the seriousness of the situation. I believe there is now a need for a meeting at foreign minister level at least to salvage the peace process, if we could not hold a special comprehensive summit conference on the peace process in addition to the summit on Jerusalem.

We will not let Israel do what it likes, even after its declaration that it would not expropriate any more land in the future, because we know the Israeli mentality perfectly well. It will not stop its designs in the region. We should bear in mind that Israel is actually acting against its own interests because peace would give Israel many gains, better than the results of its intransigent positions obstructing the peace process on all tracks.

League Chief: U.S. Veto Provokes 'Angry' Reactions

NC1805132995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 18 May (MENA) — Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Rabat for Cairo today after a two-day visit to Morocco during which he met Moroccan King Hassan II to discuss developments concerning Jerusalem and the idea of holding an Arab summit.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Rabat, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Moroccan king's agreement to convene a minisummit in Morocco is a significant step in line with his initiatives and known concern for Arab issues.

He added that contacts are continuing regarding the participants in the summit and said he hoped these contacts would reach a clear conclusion so that the summit might be held as soon as possible.

The Arab League secretary general said the U.S. veto on the [Security] Council's resolution asking Israel to reverse the expropriation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem provokes angry reaction from the Islamic and world community. He noted that this U.S. stance contradicts previous and recorded U.S. positions, namely, the statement by U.S. Ambassador Goldberg on 14 July 1967 and the position of U.S. Ambassador Charles Yost at the Security Council on 1 July 1969. They conveyed the U.S. position clearly that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories and that its status cannot be changed. These statements by the two ambassadors, he said, were recorded at the United Nations; the current U.S. stance contradicts official U.S. positions.

League Official: Veto Ends U.S. Role as Peace Broker

NC1805212095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 95

[Interview with Sa'id Kamal, assistant Arab League secretary general for Palestinian affairs, by correspondents Mahmud Marzuq and Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab, from the "Talking Newsreel" program; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Today, 18 May, is Jerusalem Day. On this occasion, just as the city is facing its most critical phase, the United States used its veto against the draft resolution presented by the

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nonaligned countries regarding Israel's expropriation of land in east Jerusalem. What do you have to say about the situation following this veto?

[Kamal] Discussions will be held by the Arab League secretariat general tomorrow when the secretary general returns. But, as I see it, this is the first time that the United States has switched from abstaining on Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem to vetoing them. This is really strange. It used to abstain before the peace process. Israel ,of course, used to ignore the resolutions, either with or without U.S. knowledge. The United States used to abstain prior to the peace negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, but in the era of negotiations and the beginning of the uneven road with obstacles placed by Israel it now switches to using the veto. I believe that this change has negated its role as a sponsor and broker of peace [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] The United States is saying that the Security Council is not the proper place for discussing the Jerusalem issue and that, as agreed, this issue will be discussed in the final stages of the peace negotiations. When it made this decision, it said that this is not the time for the Security Council to adopt a resolution on Israel, and if we start this process with this Security Council resolution then how can the issue be discussed in the final stage? This is the U.S. view. But it is our view that this is not fair.

[Kamal] The Jerusalem issue was postponed in accordance with an official letter signed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the Norwegian foreign minister, who handed it to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat before he went to Washington in September 1993. The letter says that Israel commits itself not to alter the geographic or demographic nature of Jerusalem or to touch the Palestinian cultural, educational, or religious establishments until the status of the city is finally decided upon, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement. The expropriation of 53 hectares is one of measures that began before the DOP. They began in 1967 and early 1968 and have continued since then. So when Israel took this measure, why did the United States not move to stop it? On the contrary, it said that this was a bilateral issue. All right. What bilateral issue? You are the peace sponsor and broker; the issue blew up and neither the PLO nor the Palestinian Authority can remain id'e, because we know that there is a plan to expropriate land up to the year 2000 through various means, including displacement, expulsion, security pretexts, high taxes, etc. So how could the United States then say that this is a matter of real estate?

[Correspondent] There is a clear contradiction in the U.S. stand. After announcing that moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is not necessary now, the U.S. Administration has taken this stand in the Security Council. How do you explain this contradiction? The first stand showed its understanding of the importance of the Jerusalem issue in the peace process; but then it used the veto today, thus contradicting this stand.

[Kamal] I will tell you why. Because Senator Robert Dole and 100 Congressmen acted before the final solution was reached. They revealed their plan prematurely. The memorandum sent by the executive secretary of the Jewish organizations in the United States to Secretary Christopher objects to the memorandum sent by Dole and the speaker of the House of Representatives in which they demand an early move of the embassy. He said that prematurely raising this issue at this moment endangers peace. But the plan remains. This is why Christopher relied on the Jewish Congress' stand and issued his well known statement.

The odd thing here is that on 18 April 1990, Robert Dole said that there was no need to move the embassy regardless of others' views. He knew that the Arabs regard Jerusalem as an indivisible part of their homeland and have deep emotional ties to it. Then suddenly on May 8, Robert Dole told the American-Israeli Political Action Committee: Yes. I support moving the embassy. Therefore the issue is an election commodity. Jerusalem is not a pawn in their elections. This is the most important problem, which we should confront with all our might. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

King Hassan Chairs OIC Bosnia Contact Committee

LD1805193595 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II flanked by Crown Price Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid at noon today at the royal palace in Rabat chaired the meeting of the Bosnia-Herzgovina Contact Committee formed by the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC]. [passage omitted]

Also attending the meeting were, as an observer, the Bosnian minister of cooperation with the United Nations, two representatives of Indonesia and Bangladesh, and OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid. [passage omitted]

Session Detailed

LD1805231695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The work of the ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference

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[OIC] contact group on Bosnia, which was opened by His Majesty King Hassan II, resumed this evening. The meeting began with a public session headed by the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr. Abdellatif Filali.

[Correspondent] In the presence of its full membership and with the participation of Indonesia, representing the Nonaligned Movement, and Bangladesh, and in the presence of Bosnia-Herzegovina as the state concerned, the work of the contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina began in its fifth meeting since the formation of the group in 1992 during the fifth extraordinary session of Islamic foreign ministers in Istanbul.

The meeting began with a speech delivered by Abdelltif Filali, who is also chairman of the 22d session of C!C foreign ministers. He recalled the circumstances in which the meeting was convened, characterized by a military escalation on the one hand and the deterioration of the human aspects of this bloody conflict on the other.

He confirmed that international efforts and those of the contact group has failed to produce any results as a consequence of the differences of stands within the contact group and the absence of a clear view of what must be undertaken to confront the Serbian challenges and procrastination.

He observed that the United Nations has confirmed the sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina Republic and its political independence, and its territorial unity as the most important constants for any peaceful and final solution. The OIC also adopted these constants as a basis for its resolutions, the last of these resolutions being the Casablanca declaration. [passage omitted]

The contact group continued its proceedings in closed session.

Shaykh Urges Muslims To Help Bosnians

NC1805172595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA) — Grand shaykh of al-Azhar, His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, has appealed to the Islamic Contact Group on Bosnia, which is meeting in Morocco today, to call on the international community to uphold human rights, deter those who have violated human rights in Bosnia, and help the Bosnian people to achieve their sovereignty and ensure respect for their human rights.

In a statement today, the grand shaykh of al-Azhar called on the Islamic countries in particular and the world in general to extend aid in all fields to the Bosnian people and to help them protect their heritage, culture, and civilization, which are being shaken and unfairly subjected to vicious attacks without respect for legitimacy or international norms.

He noted that the Bosnian people continue to be subjected to the severest tribulations and sufferings, aggression against their sovereignty and territory, violations of their humanity and dignity, blatant breaches of human rights, and deprivation of their rights, justice, and equality, in a return to the age of bigotry and darkness.

The grand shaykh of al-Azhar reminded everyone of the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and of its people's sufferings, particularly their need for all kinds of support in fighting for their rights and in order to alleviate their sufferings. He also reminded everyone of the cooperation and solidarity Islam uniquely requires, not only among Muslims but all mankind. He added that there is no discrimination in Islam because of color, sex, or religion, instead there is brotherhood and peace within the framework of right, justice, and peace in which all mankind cooperates in love and peace while maintaining diversity.

Concluding his statement, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq said that al-Azhar is confident that the Islamic Contact Group understands this human tragedy and appreciates the importance of ending it justly and fairly to the benefit of this people.

Attending Officials View U.S. Security Council Veto

Egypt's Musa Calls Veto 'Bad Signal'

NC1805143595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat, 18 May (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Rabat this afternoon to attend the meetings of the Islamic Contact Group on Bosnia that starts later today.

Musa stated on arrival that the time has come for the Islamic Contact Group to issue resolutions that can help find a positive solution to the Bosnian problem, end the current tragedy there, and correct the policies that have led to the failure of the new world order. [passage omitted]

Musa added that another issue to be discussed with the brothers in Morocco is the grave state of the Middle East peace process, especially the developments in Jerusalem.

The Egyptian foreign minister described the U.S. Security Council veto as a bad signal and said it was a regrettable that the veto was used for a resolution that dealt with the protection of rights in Jerusalem as well as protection of the peace process.

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He said that the Israeli measures in Jerusalem violate the peace process and conflict with Israel's pledges, international law, and the Geneva conventions. He added that this use of the veto in the Security Council was out of place.

On holding an Arab summit on Jerusalem, Musa said that this is the subject of discussions with the Arab League secretary general, the Arab leaders, and Moroccan King Hassan, who is chairman of the Jerusalem committee.

Islamic Head 'Deeply Deplores' Veto

LD1905054795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2358 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat, 18 May (SPA) — His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary-general of the Organization of Islamic Conference said he deeply deplores the use by the United States of America of the right of veto to prevent the UN Security Council from unanimously adopting a draft resolution calling on Israel to reconsider its decision to confiscate 53 donums of Arab lands in holy Jerusalem.

Dr. Algabid stressed that the Israeli measure seriously undermined the chances of success of the Middle East process which revived great hopes in the international community.

In a press communique released today he urged the U.S. Government to demonstrate the same positive stand it adopted at the start of the peace process. He said he hoped to see the U.S. Government and public opinion show a better understanding of the deep feelings prevailing in the Muslim world and its strong connection with holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Ramzi Yusuf Discusses WTC Bombing, Other Activities

95LH0153A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Raghidah Durgham: "Terrorist for Whose Arrest Washington Allocated $2 Million Recounts His Story to AL-HAYAH; Ramzi Yusuf Defends Trade Center Bombing: Palestinians Are Entitled To Attack U.S. Targets"]

[Text] New York — Defendant Ramzi Yusuf, whose real name is Abd-al-Basit Balushi [Baluchi], has revealed that he was the brains behind the World Trade Center [WTC] bombing and that he supports the Liberation Army Movement [Harakat Jaysh al-Tahrir], which claimed responsibility for the bombing. He has said, "I support this movement's objectives, which are to pressure the U.S. Administration to end its aid for Israel by launching operations against U.S. targets."

Yusuf has given AL-HAYAH his first interview since his arrest in Pakistan and extradition to the United States at the beginning of this year after a two-year pursuit and after the United States offered a $2-million reward to anyone whose information leads to the arrest of Ramzi Yusuf (text of interview on page 5) [see following item].

In the interview, conducted two days ago in his prison, Yusuf revealed that the Liberation Army Movement is an international movement concerned with issues of the world's armed Islamic movements. He said the "movement has groups and military divisions, each of which concerns itself with Islamic movements' affairs in various countries." He emphasized that the Liberation Army Movement is still present and that, at times, it carries out military operations for which it does not declare its responsibility." He added that it includes elements from "all of the world's nationalities."

Yusuf said, "One of the Liberation Army's objectives has been to help members of Egypt's Islamic Group, Egypt's Jihad Group, Palestine's Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and Salvation Front, and Algeria's armed Islamic movements."

He has also revealed that the movement was "about to carry out retaliatory acts in Saudi Arabia following the arrest of Shaykh Salman Fahd al-'Awdah and Shaykh Safar al-Hawali."

While emphasizing that he is innocent of the charges of attempting to assassinate Pope John Paul II in the Philippines and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Yusuf refused to comment directly on the nature of his role in the New York WTC bombing. However, he defended the explosion as "legitimate."

He said, "I believe that the movement, and Palestinians generally, are entitled to strike U.S. targets because the United States is a partner in the crimes committed in Palestine by virtue of the fact that it finances those crimes with money and weapons. Because this money is taken from taxes by Americans, then logically and legally, this makes the American people responsible for all the crimes of killing, settlements, torture, and imprisonment to which the Palestinian people are subjected."

He denied that he has "any relationship with Iraq or with any other state." He said, "The U.S. authorities want to prove that I am backed by Iraq so they will be able to use this as a pretext for more pressure on Iraq."

Yusuf characterized himself as a Palestinian, even though he was born in Kuwait and grew up there. He is a Pakistani citizen because his father is a

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Pakistani. His mother is Palestinian and he talks about his grandmother in Haifa. He studied at Swansea University in Wales, United Kingdom, and graduated as an electronics engineer in 1989. He is also an explosives expert. Yusuf is 27 years old.

Ramzi Yusuf is married to an Arab woman and has two daughters: three years old and one year old.

His original name is Abd-al-Basit Balushi. But he is comfortable with the name Ramzi Yusuf, which he seems to have adopted a few years ago.

Yusuf is intelligent and self-confident. He talks softly. He has a message and a call. Yusuf does not care if he is characterized as a terrorist, "If terrorist means that I regain my land and fight whoever assaults me and my kinsmen, then I have no objection to being called a terrorist." He smiles shyly.

He has left the impression that he has a story that is totally different from the well-known story behind the WTC bombing. He implied that the objective was to assassinate a "Zionist official."

He is fearless and he agrees to his being characterized as a "genius."

Interview With Ramzi Yusuf

95LH0154A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Ramzi Yusuf, defendant charged in the bombing of New York's World Trade Center, by Raghidah Dirgham at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York on 10 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York—Ramzi Yusuf, whose real name is Abd-al-Basit Balushi [Baluchi] and who is charged with being the brains behind New York's World Trade Center [WTC] bombing, has given AL-HAYAH his first interview since he was arrested by Pakistani authorities and handed over to U.S. authorities. While emphasizing that he is innocent of the charges of trying to assassinate Pope John Paul II and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Ramzi Yusuf did not wish to comment on the bombing charge "because I am not as much concerned with the verdict that will be issued against me as I am with the legitimacy of that act." He added, "I have no connection with Iraq or with other governmental circles. I only support the Liberation Army, which declared its responsibility for the WTC bombing."

The interview reveals numerous new sides of the man whom U.S. authorities pursued for two years before he was arrested.

The interview began with Yusuf's demanding the right to omit some questions and to review the answers, should he deem it necessary. He said that this is because he will face a trial later. He came to the interview with various papers, some written in Arabic and some in English. It seemed as if he had prepared himself for the interview and as if he were determined to register the points that were important to him. At times, he tried to manage the interview so it would reflect his priorities. Whenever he felt that the questions were predetermined, he laughed shyly and responded while insisting on refusing to answer any question he found inappropriate.

Ramzi is short and "slender." He has a short beard and two blue eyes with a glassy tinge that makes them look very big. He responds to smiles, and smiling makes him shy. He is confident of himself and of his ability to manage things. He found no need for the presence of his attorney with him during the interview. Ramzi did not permit the use of a recorder during the interview, which lasted more than two hours in a cold hall at New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center. He came in accompanied by two guards who remained in the hall throughout the interview.

AL-HAYAH asked him who he is, where he grew up and studied, and what is his nationality and his background. He answered, "My name is Abd-al-Basit al-Balushi. I was born in Kuwait and I grew up and completed my high school education there. I then continued my studies at Swansea University in Wales, where I studied electronic engineering and graduated in 1989. The family is from Pakistan, but I also descend from Palestinian origins. I carry a Pakistani passport. I am Palestinian on my mother's side; my grandmother is Palestinian. A part of my family is in Pakistan, a part in Kuwait, and I have some relatives in Palestine.

He has brothers but he did not answer when he was asked how many. He is 27 years old.

"I am married and I have two daughters: one three years old and the other one year old."

This means that Yusuf Ramzi had a baby while being pursued by the judiciary as of the WTC bombing on 26 February 1993. According to U.S. authorities, Yusuf entered New York on 1 September 1992 and departed it on the day of the explosion.

When asked if he had previously lived in Iraq, he said, "I have not lived in Iraq; I had visited Iraq because I have relative and friends there." But he did not specify when he visited Iraq and did not agree to answer questions connected with whether he had previously carried an Iraqi passport.

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He was asked about a theory promoted by some U.S. circles to the effect that he worked for Iraq and that he is an Iraqi agent. He answered quietly, "I have denied the presence of any connection with Iraq or with any other country. But the 'Americans' want to take as much advantage of my case as they can. In order to use this as a pretext for more pressure on Iraq, U.S. authorities want to prove that I am, first, charged with this issue (WTC bombing) and that, second, I am supported by Iraq."

[Dirgham] Have you had relations with Iraq?

[Yusuf] I have no relations with Iraq or with other governmental circles. I only support the Liberation Army, which declared its responsibility for the WTC bombing.

[Dirgham] And who is the Liberation Army?

[Yusuf] It is the movement that claimed responsibility for the bombing. I support this movement's objectives, which are to pressure the U.S. Administration by carrying out operations against U.S. targets so this administration will stop its aid for Israel.

[Dirgham] Operations that include the WTC bombing?

[Yusuf] I support this movement's objectives, be they the center or something else. I believe that this movement, and Palestinians generally, is entitled to strike U.S. targets because the United States is a partner in the crimes committed in Palestine, considering that it finances these crimes and supports them with weapons. The movement is also entitled because this money is taken from taxes paid by Americans. Logically and legally, this makes the American people responsible for all the killing, settlement, torture, and imprisonment crimes to which the Palestinian people are subjected. It is no excuse that the American people do not know where their federal tax money goes.

[Dirgham] Even civilian targets?

[Yusuf] First, they are the ones who started with civilian targets in Palestine; they are the ones who kill civilians. Second, they practice the collective punishment system against us, such as curfews, demolition of homes, and the sealing off of buildings. These are the means to which Israeli authorities resort. If an individual carries out an operation in a city, they punish everybody.

[Dirgham] What is the crime of the ordinary U.S. citizen?

[Yusuf] In law, we consider whoever commits a murder and whoever helps the killer with money or weapons a partner in the crime, and in punishment. Moreover, the United States is applying the system of collective punishment against Iraq and Libya — when either government makes any mistake, the United States punishes the people in their entirety for the government's mistake. We are reciprocating the treatment.

[Dirgham] Do you absolve the two governments of their responsibility to their peoples?

[Yusuf] I do not absolve those governments but I say that the method of punishing the people because of government mistakes is a method employed by the United States itself.

[Dirgham] Who heads or manages the Liberation Army movement?

[Yusuf] Unknown; this is confidential.

Ramzi Yusuf insisted on returning to the points he wanted to highlight instead of carrying on with other questions. He did not directly insist this; he imposed his wish calmly. Seeking guidance from his papers, he said, "I wish to present my case in the court on the following basis:

"First, Israel is an illegitimate state and its presence is void morally and legally, as confirmed by UN and Security Council resolutions. Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people are illegal and groundless. The Palestinian people are entitled to respond similarly. Any foreign intervention in the interest of Israel is a violation of international laws and is tantamount to participation in the responsibility for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people. As Palestinians are entitled to attack Israeli targets, they are also entitled to attack all the parties that intervene in Israel's interest. I want to prove this legally. If this is not supported by the law, then what does the law say about my right to my grandmother's home in Haifa and to my relatives' homes in Palestinian cities that the Zionists occupied in 1948?

I interposed to ask him if he has visited any of these places. He answered tersely that he is not permitted to visit these places in the first place. He went on resolutely, "And what does the law say about my killed and imprisoned relatives and about the Palestinians who still get killed to this day? What does the law say about 2.5 million Palestinians expelled from their land? What does the law say about the rights of thousands of Palestinians who live in temporary camps? What does the law advise those who have lost their homes and their

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property to do? What does the law advise that a person like me—a person who sees material aid and weapons flow to those who commit crimes against his kinsmen and his homeland—do to stop this aid?"

I interposed again to ask him about his selection of the word "homeland" when speaking of Palestine. I asked him about his identity and about what he considers himself to be: Pakistani, Palestinian, Kuwaiti? He answered, "I am Pakistani by naturalization. I have numerous relatives in Palestine, and I do not wish to mention their names. I am also Pakistani on my father's side."

[Dirgham] Do you consider yourself a Kuwaiti?

[Yusuf] No.

[Dirgham] So your affiliation is Palestinian?

[Yusuf] Yes.

He then resumed what he had been talking about. He said, "When I presented my case on this basis, I received the court's preliminary approval to defend myself and my cause according to the facts I have presented."

Asked if he claims his innocence regarding the New York WTC bombing, he said, "It is premature to answer this question. My main concern is to defend the cause I have presented and to prove that I am legally entitled to it. It does not concern me then if I am acquitted of the bombing charge or not. I consider the preliminary approval the court has given me to present the case in this manner a major accomplishment. I wish to ask Arab, especially Palestinian, attorneys to come forth to defend this case, especially since the judge plans to appoint a second attorney, in addition to the present one. I hope that whoever is prepared will correspond with me at the following address:

Ramzi Yousef Reg. 03911-000 Metropolitan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row, New York, NY 1007.

[Dirgham] You know Shaykh Umar Abd-al-Rahman. What is your opinion of him? Do you admire him?

[Yusuf] Yes, I known him and I admire him. One of the Liberation Army's goals has been to aid members of Egypt's Islamic Group and Jihad Group; Palestine's Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad; and Algeria's FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and armed Islamic movements. The Liberation Army Movement was about to embark on retaliatory acts in Saudi Arabia in wake of the arrest of Shaykh Salman Fahd al-'Awdah and Shaykh Safar al-Hawali.

[Dirgham] Where is the center of the Liberation Army Movement?

[Yusuf] It is an international movement concerned with affairs of the world's Islamic armed movements.

[Dirgham] Are you the brains behind the movement?

[Yusuf] I am not the brains. I noted at the outset that I support this movement; I did not say I was one of its members.

[Dirgham] You have said that it is an international movement. Is the movement's contact center here?

[Yusuf] They have their special contact method. The movement has groups and military divisions, each of which takes care of Islamic movements' affairs in various countries.

[Dirgham] Is the movement still extant and active now?

[Yusuf] Yes, it is still extant. At times, it carries out military acts but does not announce its responsibility for them.

[Dirgham] Does the movement include Afghan mojahedin?

[Yusuf] This is not conditional. It includes all of the world's nationalities.

[Dirgham] Were you a mojahed in Afghanistan?

[Yusuf] I did not take part in the combat in Afghanistan.

I pondered the careful answer and I tried to find out if Yusuf was with the mojahedin in Afghanistan or if he considers himself a mojahed, but he refused to answer.

Again, I asked him about his relationship with Shaykh Umar Abd-al-Rahman. He said, "There is no connection between my case and their case," meaning Shaykh Umar Abd-al-Rahman's group.

[Dirgham] Do you know Imad Salim, the Egyptian informer?

[Yusuf] I do not know Imad Salim, and he does not know me.

[Dirgham] Do you know Siddiq Ali Siddiq, the Sudanese who is cooperating with the authorities now?

[Yusuf] I do not know him. The prosecution tries to fabricate stories to establish a connection between us so they will be found guilty of the charges made against them.

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[Dirgham] You know the group that has been found guilty of the WTC bombing: Muhammad Salamah, Nidal Ayyad, Mahmud Abu-Halimah, Ahmad Ajjaj, and I have forgotten the name of the one who is still at large.

[Yusuf] I know all of them, and you mean Abd-al-Rahman Yasin. Yes, I know him. He is an Iraqi born in the United States.

[Dirgham] They have all been convicted and are in jail now. What is your opinion of the outcome of their trial?

[Yusuf] I wish to say that the prosecution fabricated some evidence against them, such as the Hispanic witness who, they claimed, worked at a gas station and saw all of us filling our cars with gas. This story was fabricated. Second, the documents Ajjaj carried with him when he entered the United States, and on whose strength he was convicted, belonged to me. The proof is that my fingerprints were on all those documents. Those documents belong to me because I am, as I have already noted, an explosives expert, in addition to being an electronics engineer.

[Dirgham] Why were you bringing in documents on explosives?

[Yusuf] Being an explosives expert, it is normal that I would carry documents within my field of specialization.

[Dirgham] How did you become an explosives expert?

[Yusuf] I attended instructional courses and practical training.

I tried to find out where, within what context, and for what reason. But Ramzi Yusuf clung to the phrase "nothing to add." We went back to Ajjaj, who carried the documents, and I asked him if he were innocent.

[Yusuf] Yes, Ajjaj is not guilty; they are all innocent. I will try to prove this soon with evidence, God willing.

[Dirgham] Did somebody else implicate them? The brains?

[Yusuf] This will be revealed in time.

[Dirgham] You told me previously that your name is Abd-al-Basit Balushi. Is your name also Ramzi Yusuf?

[Yusuf] Yes, I recently have become accustomed to the name Ramzi Yusuf.

[Dirgham] You are aware that you are being nicknamed the genius terrorist and the brains behind the WTC bombing and other operations. Do you consider yourself a terrorist and a genius?

[Yusuf] To begin, we do not care if we are characterized as terrorists, because we do not try to occupy land that does not belong to us and because we do not fight people who have not attacked us. We are trying to regain our rights and to reciprocate the aggressor's treatment. If terrorist means to regain my land and to fight whoever attacks me and my kinsmen, then I have no objection to being called a terrorist. I wish to say here that all Muslims, in addition to the Palestinians, are entitled to fight the Zionists because Jerusalem does not belong to the Palestinians alone. I also wish to point out that while the United States pursues Nazis and brings them to be tried before war crime courts, it supplies the Zionists with money and weapons to commit similar war crimes in Palestine. If the United States is concerned with the Zionists, then why does it not give them their own state in the United States? If the Jews were persecuted by the Nazis, then why should the Palestinians pay the price of that persecution? Moreover, blacks have been subjected to slavery and persecution in this country, so why are they, like the Jews, not given a state?

[Dirgham] You are accused of trying to assassinate Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Have you tried to assassinate her?

[Yusuf] This is absolutely untrue for a very simple reason: If it were true, I would not be alive today.

[Dirgham] You are very confident of yourself, truly.

[Yusuf] This is my answer.

[Dirgham] Do you consider yourself a genius?

[Yusuf] Why do you insist on this question?

[Dirgham] I wish to know how you view yourself.

He smiled without offering an answer.

[Dirgham] Do you consider yourself a genius?

[Yusuf] Yes (smiling shyly).

He then went on to answer the accusations made by the Pakistani authorities, saying, "The Pakistani authorities' accusation that I took part in activities and acts against the Iranian Government are absolutely untrue. They seek to exploit the issue for their own interest. By proving that I am financed by Iraq, they want to give the Iranian Government the impression that the acts attributed to me inside Iran had been hatched by Iraq. Their purpose is to create tension in Iranian-Iraqi relations."

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[Dirgham] You are also accused of trying to assassinate the pope.

[Yusuf] This is absolutely untrue because Islam prohibits aggression against clergymen, especially if they have no role in the ongoing fighting. Secondly, there is no evidence connected with this issue.

[Dirgham] They say that they have found a computer.

[Yusuf] The evidence they rely on has nothing to do with the issue. The statements they extracted from the arrested individuals are either fabricated or extracted forcibly from those individuals.

[Dirgham] You deny absolutely the charges made against you in connection with attempts to assassinate the pope and Bhutto. But you do not deny the charges made against you in connection with the New York WTC bombing.

[Yusuf] I have said that I do not wish to focus on the perpetrator's identity as much as I wish to emphasize that this act (bombing) is a legitimate act, regardless of whether the bombing targeted the WTC itself or a Zionist who was to be assassinated at that site.

[Dirgham] You mean that the operation sought to assassinate an Israeli official?

[Yusuf] A Zionist official whose assassination was sought at the time.

[Dirgham] I see that you do not deny your role in the WTC bombing.

[Yusuf] I do not wish to comment on this now because I am not concerned as much with the verdict that will be issued against me as I am with the legitimacy of the act.

[Dirgham] You were pursued for a long time before you were arrested. Did you expect the authorities to arrest you one day; were you surprised or were you prepared psychologically?

[Yusuf] If it were true that I manufactured the bomb that was used to blow up the WTC — if this were true — a person who embarks on manufacturing, transporting, and using a bomb and accepting all the risks that may emanate from his action, including the risk of the bomb blowing up in his face at any moment, will undoubtedly accept any lesser risks and belittle anything other than manufacturing explosives.

[Dirgham] Did any explosives ever blow up in your face?

[Yusuf] It so happened that some explosives did blow up in my face during a training course I was giving some individuals on fighting alongside Muslim Bosnians.

[Dirgham] In the United States?

[Yusuf] Abroad.

[Dirgham] Where were you injured?

[Yusuf] I was injured in the hands and the face. Some burns and shrapnel (some of Yusuf's fingernails are broken right down to the flesh and one of his eyes is unstable).

[Dirgham] Do you consider yourself a radical fundamentalist?

[Yusuf] Israel itself was created on a radical fundamentalist principal. Why do people not point this out about Israel but mention it whenever Muslims are accused?

[Dirgham] Do you consider yourself religious?

[Yusuf] Religious, yes.

[Dirgham] Are you married?

[Yusuf] I am married and have two daughters, one three and the other one year old.

[Dirgham] Were you with them?

[Yusuf] Yes, I was with them.

[Dirgham] Did you not fear for your two daughters?

[Yusuf] Whoever agrees to manufacture explosives will accept any lesser risks. God willing, they are safe.

[Dirgham] Is the cause more important to you than your two daughters?

[Yusuf] Of course. If the cause is more important to me than myself then there is no doubt that it is more important than anything else. We have not chosen this path voluntarily but have been compelled to take it as a result of the killing and the occupation with which we are living.

[Dirgham] What is your opinion of Palestinian Chairman Yasir 'Arafat?

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[Yusuf] An Israeli agent. The peace talks are illegal and are tantamount to a violation of UN laws. Article 2 [no further identification given] stipulates that land is to be returned in exchange for ending the war, not for the peace and the normalization in which the PLO is engaged. The just solution to the Palestinian issue is the withdrawal of all Zionist Jews who have entered since 1948, the release of all prisoners, the payment of reparations to all victims, and convocation of war crime courts to try Israeli officials.

[Dirgham] Your words are not realistic.

[Yusuf] This is what the law supports. As Nazis are being punished and Jews compensated, Israelis must be punished and Palestinians compensated.

[Dirgham] What is your opinion of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn?

[Yusuf] The Iraqi people must not pay for the mistakes made by Saddam Husayn.

[Dirgham] Who do you admire greatly?

[Yusuf] The apostle, God's prayers and peace be upon him.

[Dirgham] And the figure that you hate most?

[Yusuf] (Smiling and getting ready to leave when prison authorities end the interview because the allotted time is up) Satan.

Palestinian Affairs

UN Envoy: Veto Violates U.S. 'Obligations'

NC1905070595 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 May 95

[Telephone interview with Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian permanent representative at the United Nations, in New York, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Ambassador, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Qudwah] Thank you my dear brother.

[Abu-al-Majd] What will happen after the U.S. veto against the Arab group's draft resolution [on Jerusalem] at the Security Council? Is that the end of it?

[Al-Qudwah] Of course that must not be the end. But before discussing this, let me emphasize that the U.S. veto against the draft resolution confirms U.S. bias toward Israel and comes as a clear violation of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. It also violates the obligations of the United States as a cosponsor of the Middle East peace process. At any rate, we must proceed with our efforts, whether in the Security Council and the United Nations in general or outside this framework, namely, within Arab coordination and the unified Arab position, God willing.

[Abu-al-Majd] Ambassador, we continue to work at the United Nations but the United States obstructs the resolution; we continue to work with the U.S. Administration as a sponsor of the peace process but it is not actually acting as a sponsor. U.S. officials are only giving us statements. How can all this be in harmony with the Middle East peace process, which is now faltering, and some say is almost dying after this U.S. veto?

[Al-Qudwah] Certainly, all this is not in harmony with the peace process and its objectives. But negotiations and political action in general must be understood as a kind of political, nonmilitary confrontation, a long militant process involving ups and downs and give and take. Those who thought the mere launching of the peace process meant ending the contradictions and becoming friends with the other side are the ones who may be greatly disappointed. But those who correctly understood the peace process as a change in the method of confrontation and a continuation of serious work and struggle using different methods — basically political — were not disappointed, and can carry on with this militant mission. I think we should understand things this way.

[Abu-al-Majd] Despite the U.S. veto, you seem to be optimistic. Before me there is a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which he says that Israel refuses to bring forward the date of negotiations over Jerusalem. Does this mean Israel wants to impose the fait accompli?

[Al-Qudwah] The U.S. use of the veto must not prevent us from seeing our important achievements at the Security Council. We as Arabs and Muslims got the Council to debate the issue and present a draft resolution for voting. We obtained 14 votes for the draft. This means there was clear international unanimity rejecting the Israeli position and condemning the land confiscation decision. I believe Israel well understood this international position despite the U.S. protection as provided through the veto. I think it is important to point to this issue. Regarding negotiations, we did not ask for any over Jerusalem. We are demanding that Israel fully abide by the texts concerning Jerusalem in the Declaration of Principles, including that it refrain from taking any measures that may create new facts and prejudice

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the results of the talks. This is what we are calling for: full and precise commitment to the Declaration of Principles as regards Jerusalem and the other issues.

[Abu-al-Majd] Peres had said the Arabs would get nothing from the Security Council. Israel congratulated the United States on using the veto. Does this mean Israel is applying big pressure on the United States? Will the U.S. decision at this stage remain in agreement with Israel's logic and oppose world logic?

[Al-Qudwah] Regrettably, much of the U.S. decision concerning the Middle East is linked with domestic considerations, such as elections and others. Whether we like it or not, this is the reality and we must understand it so that we can correctly deal with it. Regarding Israel's congratulations for the United States, as I said, there was international unanimity condemning the Israeli position. The United States itself expressed a position against the land expropriation decisions at the Security Council. So the local U.S. considerations that dictated the veto decision must not prevent us from seeing the facts. They certainly did not prevent Israel from seeing these facts despite all the Israeli claims. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives 'Urgent' UN Message From Kozyrev

JN1805185595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received the Russian charge d'affaires to Tel Aviv at the Presidential Office in Gaza this afternoon.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat, said that the Russian official handed President 'Arafat an urgent message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the results of yesterday's meeting of the UN Security Council and Russia's stand on them.

Fatah Urges Two-Hour Strike To Protest U.S. Veto

JN1805183095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement calls on the masses of our people to stage a two-hour strike, from 1000 to 1200, on Saturday, 20 May. This is in protest against and to denounce the U.S. policy and use of the right to coercion — the veto.

Quray' Calls U.S. Veto 'Extremely Disappointing'

TA1805184395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 May 95

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', official in charge of the trade and industry portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondents Fayiz 'Umar and Yehezqel Ya'aqobi in the studio, from the weekly "Encounter" program; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Umar] Mr. Abu-'Ala', let us begin with the U.S. veto imposed last night with regard to the expropriation of lands in Jerusalem. What is your comment?

[Quray'] The fact is that this step by the United States is extremely disappointing. It is tantamount to condoning injustice and aggression. As much as the issue of Jerusalem is important to the Israeli side, it is equally important — if not more so — for the Palestinian side. Undoubtedly, both of us have also acknowledged that this is a difficult problem, and therefore, confidence-building measures are necessary so that we can overcome this problem. We agreed in Oslo to postpone discussion of this issue until the final-status talks. This means that no demographic or geographic changes should be made in Jerusalem until the final status talks that determine its fate.

With deep regret a recent step was adopted by the Israeli Government, approved by the Cabinet, signed by the prime minister, and financed by the Ministry of Finance with the signature of the minister of finance. This, undoubtedly, is a flagrant aggression that violates all the principles of international law. Moreover, it flagrantly violates the peace agreement signed between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

The fact that the United States has imposed a veto on the draft resolution proposed to the Security Council, which manifests the stance of international law, is without doubt an extremely disappointing step by the sponsor of the peace conference, or one of the sponsors of the peace conference, whose stance is supposed to be just — the stance of a just sponsor.

[Ya'aqobi] And what will be the impact on the peace process in light of this decision?

[Quray'] I cannot preempt events, but I do not believe that such a step that has been taken in Jerusalem will facilitate matters either for the Palestinian Authority [PA] or the peace camp on the Palestinian side.

['Umar] Will it halt the peace process on the Palestinian side?

[Quray'] As I said, I do not wish to preempt events. I do not know. Undoubtedly, however, Palestinian institutions, by virtue of the fact that the PA is one of the PLO's institutions, the PLO, and perhaps the Central Committee — I do not know when — will adopt steps. I do not know what those steps will be.

[Ya'aqobi] We should remember that the Israeli Government has said that there are permits for building some

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8,000 housing units in Jerusalem for Arab residents and that the problems lies with the Arab landowners, contractors, and initiators. What is your view?

[Quray'] First of all many applications have been made for housing permits. The Israeli policy on Jerusalem is known — not only on Jerusalem but on the entire West Bank. This policy is completely discouraging. It is the natural right of every citizen in Jerusalem and the West Bank to apply for a building permit either for a housing project, a building, or a house. These issues are extremely complicated in Jerusalem. We heard two or three years ago about permits for 7,500 housing units. This is baseless. We were taken by surprise by the Israeli minister of housing with permits for building new settlements. This is the great surprise.

['Umar] But at the same time the Arab residents are allowed to use some of this confiscated land to build houses or apartments.

[Quray'] These are Palestinian lands. I do not wish to discuss details now. The fact that Israel has made a unilateral decision is a violation of all agreements and laws. In our view, Jerusalem is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 This is our stance. They have a different stance. We agreed to postpone discussion of this issue until the final-status talks. Giving permits to the Arabs will not solve the problem of Jerusalem, nor will settlements in Jerusalem solve this problem. Only creativity that places the legitimate rights of both sides in their proper places will solve the problem of Jerusalem.

[Ya'aqobi] Abu-'Ala', one year after your assumption of the PA, how do you view its performance? Are you optimistic about the future?

[Quray'] I will not be hiding anything when I say I am optimistic on one thing only, that is the establishment of a Palestinian national authority. This is the only important achievement. Regrettably, the other things practiced by the Israeli side in implementing this agreement are undoubtedly extremely frustrating measures. Look what we are seeing now around Gaza. What is happening around Gaza is a process of complete separation between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

[Ya'aqobi] For security reasons.

[Quray'] Whether security or other reasons, matters could have been addressed in a different way. The closure — I again use the word violation — is a violation of the economic agreement, which provides for free trade. This principle no longer exists; however, this is not the only issue. In its political dimension, the issue is dangerous. Separating the West Bank from the Gaza Strip is a dangerous thing. It does not indicate that there are good intentions regarding the commitment to implement the agreement.

The other issue is the economic situation, which has deteriorated. The PA's requests for money to build its institutions are facing more difficulties. The second part of the agreement has not been implemented. This process is based on two legs. One leg is political, and the other is social, economic, and service. The economic leg is paralyzed, and the political leg is tied by Israel. Consequently, the process has still not advanced. If the two legs of this process are not freed — by the Palestinian side and the Israeli side — in all their political and economic dimensions, there will be a serious impasse and difficulties. [passage omitted]

Hamas Urges Arabs To 'Cut All Links' After Veto

NC1805140295 Paris AFP in English
1346 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 18 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) urged the Arabs Thursday [18 May] to cut all links with the "Zionist enemy" after the United States vetoed UN condemnation of land confiscations.

The fundamentalist group accused the United States of backing a "Zionist conspiracy to take over Jerusalem completely.

"The antagonistic American attempt supports the American bias towards the Zionist interests at the expense of the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people."

The statement was issued after Washington used its veto power Wednesday for the first time in five years to block a resolution at the United Nations backed by Europe, China and Arab nations calling on Israel to cancel land expropriations in east Jerusalem.

HAMAS said the US position showed "strong disregard for the importance of the holy sites to the faith of Moslems and Christians the world over."

It urged Arabs and Moslems to "take concrete measures ... by cutting off all secret and open contact with the Zionist enemy."

The statement did not however refer to relations with the United States.

The Palestinians consider Arab east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, while Israel has proclaimed it the eternal, united capital of the Jews.

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Sha'th Assails Veto, Urges Land Confiscation Halt

NC1805135995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 18 May (MENA) — Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, has described the U.S. veto of the UN Security Council resolution which condemned Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem as negative and bound to jeopardize the entire peace process. Sha'th said that the United States, which has isolated itself, should have acted as a sponsor of the peace process.

Continuing, Dr. Sha'th said that the U.S. commitments to the Palestinian side at the start of the peace process in Madrid and the declared commitments when the United States agreed on loans to Israel provide that Israel is not to build settlements on lands occupied in 1967. This makes it incumbent upon the United States to move quickly to stop the confiscation of land and building of settlements.

Sha'th, Information Ministry Denounce U.S. Veto

JN1805144895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has described the U.S. veto as harmful.

In a comment to the Voice of Palestine, Dr. Sha'th added that this veto could jeopardize the peace process, and set the United States on a collision course with the world community.

Dr. Sha'th asserted that the National Authority will continue to raise the issue on all levels to halt once and for all Israeli land confiscations.

The minister of planning and international cooperation urged Washington to be motivated by its responsibility as a cosponsor of the peace process. He added that this responsibility requires the U.S. Administration to quickly intervene to halt the confiscation of Palestinian land and end settlement activities.

The Palestinian Ministry of Information has also condemned the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council [UNSC].

In a statement issued today, the Ministry said that the U.S. veto reflects complete bias in favor of the outrageous Israeli policy and its ceaseless encroachments on the Palestinian people's land and property. This veto, the Ministry added, constitutes unequivocal support for the Israeli occupation authorities' settlement activities. Moreover, it is in violation of the relevant international resolutions, which state that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Spokesman: U.S. Veto 'Detrimental' to Peace Process

JN1805141495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 95

[Statement by an "official spokesman" for the Palestinian National Authority; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian people, along with the Arab nation and the entire world community, have been surprised by the U.S. stand at the UN Security Council [UNSC], manifested in the use of the veto in the face of 14 UNSC members who voted in favor of the draft resolution. Thus, the United States has ignored all international resolutions and U.S. pledges, particularly those enshrined in the letter of assurance the Palestinian side received from the U.S. Administration through former Secretary of State James Baker. Moreover, the United States has acted in defiance of the relevant UN resolutions pertaining to the city of Jerusalem, and the Fourth Geneva Convention in complete disregard for the sentiments of Muslims and Christians all over the world. By so doing, the United States has forgotten its role as a cosponsor of the peace conference. Likewise, it has forgotten the need to maintain a neutral position that is committed to international legitimacy, and to the U.S. initiative announced by President Bush, which provided the basis for convening the Madrid peace conference.

On this occasion, we would like to note that the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton, which was also signed by the U.S. secretary of state and the Russian foreign minister, and the Cairo Agreement signed under the auspices of President Mubarak, which was also signed by the U.S. secretary of state and the Russian foreign minister, are binding on the U.S. Administration. The new U.S. position contravenes the relevant positions of the successive U.S. administrations since 1967, which held the view that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian territories, not to mention the fact that the United States set the condition that the $10 billion loan guarantees should not be used in settlement construction.

This fresh U.S. position strengthens the position of the Israeli extremists, who will view the use of the veto by the United States against a draft international legitimacy resolution as a reflection of the support and protection they can count on from the most powerful state in the world. Besides, this position will be detrimental to the peace process, and foster hostility toward it on all levels.

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In this context, we would like to salute all UNSC members who supported the draft resolution for the just and courageous stands they have taken. These members represent the Arab group, the Islamic group, the European group, the African group, the Asian group, the Latin American group, the Nonaligned group, and the other four permanent UNSC members.

DFLP Leader Criticizes U.S. Land Veto

JN1805145495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], says that the U.S. veto flouts international legitimacy and encourages Israel to confiscate more land. Nayif Hawatimah said this to our radio:

[Begin Hawatimah recording] When all countries in the world, through the UN Security Council, support bringing pressure to bear on Israel to have it cancel the confiscation decision, the U.S. veto comes to flout international legitimacy, and to scorn the UN Security Council and the international community. This is because the confiscation changes the demographic and geographic features of occupied East Jerusalem to which UN Security Council Resolution 242 applies.

The U.S. veto is biased to Israel and encourages it to confiscate more land and not cancel such confiscation decisions. These are some of the poisoned results of the Oslo agreement which has kept international bodies, particularly the UN Security Council, away from all that takes place in the Middle East. [end recording]

Faruq Qaddumi Says 'Peace Process is Over'

JN1805142495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 95

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, "foreign minister of Palestine and chief of the PLO Political Department," by Ibrahim Milhim, from the "Today's Events" program; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Milhim] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of Palestine and chief of the PLO Political Department, welcome to the Voice of Palestine.

[Qaddumi] Thank you and God bless you.

[Milhim] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], how do you comment on the U.S. veto against the draft resolution that was presented to the Security Council on preventing Israel from confiscating land in East Jerusalem?

[Qaddumi] The Security Council has debated at length the draft resolution we have presented. The European group made some changes to the resolution. With extreme regret, the United States has used the veto. This measure is clear evidence that the United States is a biased state. What is more important and serious is that the United States is one of the sponsors of the peace conference. This veto has destroyed the peace process, and the United States is responsible for this. We have made great efforts with the United States so as not to take a biased position on this political settlement. The United States objects to any fair measure by the international group, that is, the Security Council, in its capacity as the largest international body responsible for peace and security. This does not give any indication at all that peace will be firmly established in the Middle East. Let the United States and Israel bear the responsibility not only for the stalemate in the peace tracks, but for destroying the peace process through these Israeli measures. The United States has prevented condemnation of these measures at the Security Council.

[Milhim] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, in your opinion, on what grounds did Washington make such a decision?

[Qaddumi] Washington believes that the Security Council is not the proper venue for discussing such issues, and that this could be done through the negotiations. However, we have told the United States: You should do something, since you have called for a quadrilateral meeting in Cairo and Rabin refused to discuss the major issues, apart from terrorism and security; and you called for another meeting on 12 February, which was attended by President Clinton in Washington, and nothing happened. Israel refuses to implement the Declaration of Principles agreement and is procrastinating. So, where should we turn, if we don't go to this international body? This means the United States has connived with Israel, and that Israel does not respect its pledges and commitments. We ask the international group to impose sanctions on Israel. Let Israel and the United States be isolated, so the world may see that the United States, under this Administration, does not want peace.

[Milhim] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, in your opinion, what effect will this decision have on the peace process in its entirety?

[Qaddumi] Frankly and clearly, the peace process is over. This is because the United States has supported these measures which contradict the agreement. Thus, it is encouraging Israel to seize more territory. This not only contravenes the peace course; actually, it has delivered the coup de grace to this course.

[Milhim] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, what about the efforts under way to convene a mini Arab summit?

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[Qaddumi] These efforts are proceeding well. We have always insisted on Arab coordination, cooperation, and solidarity because the Palestine question, or the Arab-Israeli conflict, is an Arab issue and we must be closely allied with the Arab nation. It is a long conflict with Zionism and with foreign ambitions. No doubt, there are efforts now to hold an Arab summit, even if this is on a narrow scale, to dot the i's and safeguard Palestine, since this issue is of interest to pan-Arab security. The Arab leaders must take these serious developments into consideration. Add to this Israel's possession of atomic weapons and its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

[Milhim] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, a short while ago you said the peace process is over in view of this American position, so what can we do? What is the alternative?

[Qaddumi] The alternative is the continuation of our national struggle. With extreme regret, this U.S. decision has delivered the coup de grace to the Arab tracks, as if the United States is telling the Arabs: Do whatever you like; find another way. Therefore, we must first mobilize the Arab and international public opinion to let it see that the United States, with extreme regret, is not helping to promote the peace process and that it has stood by Israel for domestic purposes, since the U.S. elections are drawing near.

[Milhim] In light of the issuance of this decision, will you call for a meeting of the PLO Central Committee and Executive Committee?

[Qaddumi] The PLO Executive Committee will meet on 1 June. The same goes for the PLO Central Committee. The secretary of the PLO Executive Committee has issued invitations for the convening of the committee in Tunis on 1 June.

[Milhim] Will there be a review of the peace process in light of this U.S. position?

[Qaddumi] This is the chief concern of the Palestinian leadership.

[Milhim] Thank you, brother Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of Palestine and chief of the PLO Political Department.

[Qaddumi] You are welcome.

PNC Statement Urges Arab Summit Over Jerusalem

JN1805174195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 May 95 p 25

[By Kamal Zakarinah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The Palestine National Council [PNC] has urged the Palestinian people in the homeland and the diaspora to close ranks and demonstrate solid and firm national unity in order to defend holy Jerusalem, which is targeted by a coordinated U.S.-Israeli onslaught. He urged all parties to rise above petty differences and shun insignificant sensitivities so they may vindicate holy Jerusalem.

In a statement issued yesterday, he called upon Arab governments and parliaments to coordinate their positions and work together to defend the first qiblah and third holiest shrine.

The statement appealed to all Arab leaders to immediately accept the call for an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the Jerusalem issue. Likewise, he urged the Arab Parliamentary Union to hold an urgent extraordinary meeting to discuss this issue, and to also examine the possibility of making Arab popular moves at various forums to vindicate Jerusalem and support its patient and steadfast residents. The statement added: The Rabin government has failed to demonstrate a reasonable measure of seriousness toward the peace process. It is disavowing the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo accords, and deliberately violating them.

The statement criticized the U.S. support for the intransigent Israeli position. The United States believes that the UN Security Council is not the proper venue for raising the issue of Jerusalem. Furthermore, it has threatened to use the veto against any draft resolution that regrets the Israeli move. As for Robert Dole, leader of the Republican majority at the U.S. Senate, he is doing his best to ensure the passage of a Congress bill authorizing the relocation to Jerusalem of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The PNC speakership and the PNC's permanent committees decided to remain in open session to follow up on the relevant developments and take whatever measures or steps they deem necessary.

In reply to questions posed by reporters, Acting PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun said that the Jerusalem issue

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is hot at this point in time. The speakership and the permanent committees are unanimous on the need to call the PLO Central Council into session. It is to be recalled that the permanent committees comprise PNC members belonging to all shades of the political spectrum. He added that the PNC will call for a PLO Executive Committee meeting to make preparations for a PLO Central Council meeting.

Al-Za'nun noted that the PNC is the only agency authorized to introduce amendments into the Palestinian Charter. It is inconceivable to contemplate any such move before the Palestinian National Authority imposes its control over all the occupied Palestinian territories, and before all the Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails are freed so that all may take part in the Palestinian elections to elect 100 PNC members inside the territories. However, those to be elected inside the territories will be called Legislative Council members. Moreover, no such move can be made before all PNC members return home as citizens rather than visitors.

When queried about the possibility of convening a PNC meeting, al-Za'nun said: We cannot find a place to convene the PNC. Hence, we are compelled to convene a meeting for the PLO Central Council.

Al-Za'nun added: The [Palestinian] Authority and the opposition are united over the issue of Jerusalem. This issue is above all differences. It is true that discussions on the final status of Jerusalem have been deferred. Nonetheless, we did not relish this reality. Consequently, the Palestinian people should not be left alone in the fight over Jerusalem. For the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians have a responsibility toward the restoration of Jerusalem.

Al-Za'nun went on to say: It is the Israelis who started the fight over Jerusalem, in violation of the agreements they have signed. Rabin has sent a message to the Norwegian foreign minister, pledging not to undermine the work of the institutions operating in Jerusalem. It is regrettable that the Israelis have gone nack on their pledges. The opposition and the authority are in the same boat. This is how they should think. The current PNC might be the last. Nonetheless, it will remain the legislative branch of government until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This is because it is the tent that shelters the Palestinians of the territories and the diaspora alike.

Al-Za'nun asserted that all the PLO Executive Committee meetings attended by less than 12 members are illegal, and that their decisions are not binding. This is because the relevant statutes stipulate that when one third of the PLO Executive Committee membership fails to attend the meetings, the PNC should meet within 30 days to choose replacements for the six members who are no longer attending, al-Za'nun said.

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Algeria

Minister: Elections 'Only Solution' to 'Crisis'

LD1805201095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with APS, Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif commented on the presidential elections and their preparations. The minister said Algeria is passing through a difficult phase and the only solution is to elect a head of state, in order to avoid a continuation of the crisis. Presidential elections, according to the interior minister, are the means for implementing the people's will and for the people to exercise their constitutional rights; it is the Algerian people's opportunity to exercise their sovereignty.

Speaking about the revision of the electoral lists and their renewal, the minister said that this is a routine and ordinary annual process, and will be as such at any election date, a matter which was observed by the administration, especially with regard to guidance and information.

Speaking about the monitoring of the election process, the interior minister said that he is of the view that this is done at several levels by way of the electors themselves, the candidates or their representatives, judges, or members of the election committees. In conclusion the interior minister expressed his confidence in the Algerian people, who have Algeria in their heart, and will determine its destiny on the date of the election.

Security Services 'Liquidate' 'Terrorist Group'

LD1705193195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement by the security services today said that the security forces have been able to liquidate a large terrorist group in Baraki, a suburb of Algiers. The statement pointed out that during a search operation the security services had fixed on the area of Bentalha, in Baraki, as their target; they then liquidated the group of 11 criminals. During this operation the security forces were able to retrieve a considerable amount of weapons and explosives. Another statement by the security services said that 11 criminals were liquidated in Algiers, Constantine, Blida and Relizane today. [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Target Children in Skikda Province

LD1805195995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With great sadness and sorrow, we have just received news that school children once again have been the target of a hateful terrorist operation. This time the criminal hands targeted the pupils of the mountain village of El Ouldja in the municipality of Bounegra in the administrative district of Ouled Attia in the Province of Skikda.

Everything started when the terrorists set fire to the bus which was carrying the pupils to their school. A farmer, however, used his tractor to transport the pupils across the mountain tracks.

In the face of this defiance, the terrorist group yesterday morning intercepted the tractor, which carried 40 pupils, and bombarded it with bombs and bullets. To protect the pupils, the driver veered off the road. He was killed along with his son and the [school's] general inspector, while 17 pupils were injured. They are now under medical care in one of Skikda's hospitals.

Egypt

Parliament Body Rejects Israeli Land Confiscation

NC1805141995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA) — The Arab Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly has asserted its rejection of the Israeli decision to expropriate Palestinian land in occupied Jerusalem, regarding such acts as flagrant violations of international legitimacy and norms and blatant violations of the principles and values of peace.

The committee called for revocation of the decision and said that decisions affecting Jerusalem's future should not be made except at the negotiations that have been agreed upon.

In a statement today, the committee announced its rejection of Israel's justifications, behind which is said lie an active Israeli plot to obliterate the Arab character of Jerusalem in order to create a de facto situation that would predetermine the outcome of the negotiations on Jerusalem. The committee noted that this awkward measure is an enormous obstacle to the peace process.

The committee expressed its hope that the stand at the expected Arab minisummit will meet its responsibilities by reformulating the entire Arab stand in order to deal with the dangers and challenges imposed by Israel. It also called for expeditious coordination among all Arab parties to devise a unified Arab policy to confront these challenges.

In conclusion, the statement notes that in order to effect this coordination, it is urgently necessary to achieve full Arab reconciliation to pave the way for a serious approach to solutions that are in the Arab nation's genuine interests.

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Analysis Terms U.S. Veto 'Blow to Peace'

NC1905101195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0905 GMT 19 May 95

["News Analysis" by Fathi 'Ali Husayn: "The U.S. Veto Is a New Slap in the Face of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although every U.S. veto relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict has shown bias toward Israel, the latest U.S. veto concerning Jerusalem is more painful and more provocative to Arab and Muslim sentiments. For the draft resolution presented by the Arab and Islamic group and the nonaligned countries on Israel's confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem was very moderate. Many amendments were introduced to the draft, such that 14 of the 15 Security Council member states voted for it. The draft was not a departure from previous resolutions on Jerusalem, which the Security Council and the UN General Assembly have issued since 1967.

The latest U.S. position is a blow to peace. It takes the United States away from the position of a sponsor of a peace process and very clearly shows its complete bias toward Israel, as was the case with the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Many political observers believe this U.S. inclination is unacceptable. The U.S. justification of the veto, namely, that peace in the Middle East must be achieved through direct negotiations, is a vague justification that reveals only a policy of double standards. This is for the simple reason that the Israeli Government should have directly negotiated with the Palestinians before confiscating their land in East Jerusalem by force. Through its measure, Israel disregarded a principle in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles stating that the future of Jerusalem will be decided through negotiations between the two sides, not through the unilateral confiscation of land.

Commentary: Israeli Action Illegal Despite U.S. Veto

NC1805132495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 May 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Israel's Decision To Annex East Jerusalem Internationally is Invalid Despite U.S. Use of Veto in Security Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who have followed the regional and international reactions during the past two weeks to Israel's decision to confiscate some Palestinian lands in east Jerusalem to expand the Jewish settlements in the city have noticed some important facts.

The first fact is that there is a consensus that this Israeli measure is a blow to the peace process and a real threat to it. The second fact is that despite this consensus, there is no practical international action to pressure Israel to rescind its decision because of the U.S. use of the veto in the Security Council. The third fact is that the Israeli Government is challenging the whole international community in a provocative way as manifested by the statements made by its senior officials, led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

We will analyze these three important facts and shed light on their far-reaching repercussions.

The first fact concerns the unilateral Israeli measures in East Jerusalem that constitute a blow to the peace process and a real threat to it. President Husni Mubarak was the first to warn of this when he said in an exclusive interview with the British paper THE FINANCIAL TIMES that this Israeli step has placed the Middle East peace process in the worst position so far and that he would continue to warn the Israelis that the Jerusalem issue remains the most sensitive one in the Middle East and for all Muslims. During the Security Council deliberations, almost all the countries affirmed that the Israeli measure was illegal and that it threatened the peace process in the region. What was noticeable here were the stances taken by Britain, France, and the EU countries, which differed from the U.S. stance. Even the United States, whose stances are always opposed to the adoption of any practical measures against Israel, admitted that this Israeli measure posed a danger to the peace process. What can be deduced from this international consensus is that there is an overall international agreement that the principle of land in return for peace is the basis for the peace process and that this principle applies as much to East Jerusalem as to all the other Arab territories occupied in 1967.

In other words, the Israeli decision to unify Jerusalem is invalid from the international viewpoint. Recent events have emphasized this international stance.

Moving to the second fact, namely that no practical step has been taken to pressure Israel to abandon its stance despite this international consensus, it must be stressed here that the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic stance on Jerusalem will in the end be the decisive factor in this sensitive issue. The issue is one of either a peace based on legitimacy and law and respect for everyone's legitimate rights and interests or the continuation of the struggle and conflict with all the heavy losses and damage this involves for all the parties.

There remains the third fact, namely the Israeli Government's provocative challenge to the Palestinians, the Arab and Islamic countries and peoples, and the international community. This challenge was blatantly manifested in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements

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that Israel lives according to its laws; that is, it does not recognize any principle, law, or international resolution that are at variance with Israel's laws. This puts Israel above the international community and all its organizations, bodies, laws, resolutions, conventions, and norms. In a statement he made two days ago, Rabin said that the clamor raised over the Israeli decision to confiscate some lands in Jerusalem was no more than a tempest in a teacup. These statements reveal a very worrying fact. By this, we mean that Israel's leaders do not recognize any body or law that could be resorted to in any dispute with others and that they give themselves the right to do whatever they like. This is a very serious issue and is unacceptable to the Arab countries and peoples and to the essence of the peace process in the region.

Cairo Papers Criticize U.S. Veto on Jerusalem

NC1905073095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA) — Today's Egyptian papers emphasize that the United States' use of a veto to block a Security Council resolution denouncing Israel for seizing Palestinian land in Jerusalem is a negative sign, a regrettable incident, and out of place, since it jeopardizes the entire peace process in the region.

In editorials and articles by leading writers, the papers criticize the U.S. bias in favor of Israel in a region bursting with conflicts and teeming with religious and nationalist feelings. The papers stress that the U.S. veto opens the door to deterioration and gives the Israeli Government pretexts to adopt new measures that run contrary to the desire of the region's people and their will to achieve peace.

The Cairo papers note that the U.S. veto puts into question the United States' credibility in dealing with international issues and its adoption of issues concerning human rights and peoples' legitimate rights everywhere. The papers emphasize that the United States is now required to clearly define its position after its credibility in handling various issues has become shaky following its submission to pressure from the Zionist lobby, which is rearing its ugly head on U.S. policy in the Middle East, thus consecrating the policy of double standards and blind bias toward Israel.

Under the title "Peace in the Intensive Care Unit," AL-AKHBAR says the U.S. veto is a fatal or semi-fatal blow to the Middle East peace process. It shows the falsehood of the United States' respect for international laws, which explicitly affirm the inadmissibility of seizing any occupied territory by force, the paper adds, noting that the U.S. veto casts dark shadows of doubt over Washington's goals behind insisting on playing the role of partner in the peace talks. The paper asks how U.S. President Bill Clinton can justify his stance over the draft resolution to denounce Israel at the Security Council, never mind his stance on Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It asks whether there is anything he can do to rescue peace, which has already entered the intensive care unit.

Under the headline the "U.S. Veto and Rescuing Peace," AL- JUMHURIYAH notes that the U.S. veto again raises questions over the United States' credibility. The paper says the U.S. justification for using the veto—that the Security Council is not the place to discuss the seizure of Palestinian land—shows a clear contradiction by the United States. The paper highlights that the U.S. veto will open the door to deterioration and put the entire peace process in jeopardy, adding that peace is now in need of a major rescue operation.

AL-AHRAM points out that the United States is required to clearly define its position after its credibility in handling international issues has become very shaky. The paper adds that the expected Arab minisummit on Jerusalem must pinpoint the responsibility of all the regional and international parties so that they can clearly make up their minds whether they want real peace based on international legitimacy or a peace based on encouraging aggression and disregarding the will of the international community.

In his daily column "Idea" in the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, Mustafa Amin says: Our only recourse is to acquire a nuclear bomb now that the United States has vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that was fair to the Arabs, Muslims, and most of the world but angered Israel.

Amin adds: The U.S. decision means that Washington alone is ruling the world and with one word it has abolished a Security Council resolution approved by 14 votes against the single U.S. vote.

Amin asserts that, since there is no longer any world authority to resort to, the Arab and Islamic countries have no recourse, but to acquire a nuclear bomb with which to defend themselves. He notes that it is futile for 14 countries to support the Arabs when the U.S. veto can invalidate all their votes. He says the United States wants to protect Israel whether it is the wronged party or transgressor and therefore the UN Charter, the world majority, justice, and fairness have become worthless.

On the same issue, AL-AKHBAR's chief editor, Jalal Duwaydar, says the U.S. veto raises questions about the motives behind U.S. support for Israeli aggression against Arab rights.

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He asks: Does this serve Israeli interests or is there a secret U.S. strategy that maintains that Israel is a base for the defense of U.S. interests?

The AL-AKHBAR chief editor continues: No one can deny the numerous U.S. interests in the Arab region. Nevertheless Washington persists in humiliating the Arabs and infringing their rights.

He says the U.S. moral and military backing for Israeli aggression shows U.S. indifference to its relations with the Arabs despite the magnitude of its mutual interests with the Arab countries.

Duwaydar notes that this phenomenon merits discussion and examination on the grounds that it is a morbid condition.

Under the headline "Will the Arab-Israeli Peace Collapse on the Jerusalem Threshold?," AL-AHRAM's chief editor, Ibrahim Nafi', says: This shaken U.S. Administration is strange. It has become difficult, even impossible, to understand the basis on which it deals with Middle Eastern issues. No observer or strategist can understand Washington's total bias toward Israel in a volatile area of conflict.

In his editorial today Nafi' adds: The U.S. veto is particularly frustrating and exasperating because the draft Security Council resolution was very moderate and was extensively amended to fulfill the wishes of the various members of the Council. And it was harmonious with all former UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the issue.

Nafi' asks: How can the United States oppose a just demand by the Arab and Islamic nations and allow the annexation of occupied Arab territories in contravention of all international norms and resolutions and even the foundations of the peace process itself?

AL-AHRAM's chief editor warns that the recent Israeli actions in Jerusalem and other occupied Arab lands and the proposed U.S. Senate measures to urge moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will blow up the peace operation and terminate the process of normalizing Israel's status in this region.

He says current events will put the Middle East back to square one.

Mubarak, Syria's al-Asad Confer on Minisummit

NC1805204095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak made a telephone call to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening.

The two leaders exchanged views on developments in the Middle East issue and ongoing contacts to hold an Arab minisummit to discuss the issue of Jerusalem.

U.S. Position, Arab Division on NPT Criticized

NC1805171995 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 May 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Arab Retreat and American Justice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation is now settled and the Arabs and Muslims can do nothing, except cry. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] which was extended indefinitely on 11 May, is now mandatory for everyone—those who objected, those who expressed reservation, and those who approved it just to avoid U.S. displeasure.

Only now, after the smoke has cleared, can the Arab and Muslim leaders ask themselves the difficult questions. What was the result of their efforts and how were their positions divided at the United Nations in the face of the U.S. delegate's swaggering.

The U.S. delegate insisted on making an exception for Israel and not referring to it in any document or asking Israel to join the treaty.

We know that Arab media and institutions staged a heated campaign months before the voting on the treaty. This campaign would have been fruitless, no matter how sincere the intentions were.

Initial figures indicate that 170 countries have agreed to the indefinite extension of the treaty out of 178 signatories. Simple arithmetic shows that some Arab and Islamic countries broke ranks and voted contrary to their previous statements and criticisms, following the example of U.S. justice, which preferred to boastfully exempt Israel from the treaty.

Arab and Islamic leaders must realize this bitter fact in the future. If all the battles are verbal, there is no need for them in the first place and there is no need to manipulate the feelings of the masses, who usually believe everything they are told.

These depressed masses will remain trapped between two fires: their governments' allegations and the arrogance of Madeline Albright, U.S. delegate to the United Nations, in every battle of this kind.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Interviewed

95LD0057A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Apr 95 pp 27-28

[Interview with Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, by

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unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given — first three paragraphs are FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The government recently launched a campaign of arrests against Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members who are union leaders and public personalities, and it has sought to curb their influence in the professional unions through illegal, unconstitutional legislation designed to remove the Islamic current from the unions.

Events have developed to the point where the judiciary has become a party to the conflict by issuing an unprecedented ruling that imposes a guard on the Engineers' Union, which is controlled by the Islamists.

Hence, the importance of this interview with the MB's official spokesman, Justice Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, who was interviewed by a FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH correspondent in Cairo. The interview focuses on the dimensions of the crackdown against the MB and on the MB's position on the latest developments regarding the Palestinian problem.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The government recently launched a campaign of arrests against members of the MB, and it has subjected them to numerous preventative detentions, none of which have led to a conviction. What is your comment?

[Al-Hudaybi] This attack is intended to disrupt the activity of activist union leaders and public personalities who engage in prominent activity and to sow fear in the hearts of others. It is part of a well thought out campaign to prevent them from participating in union elections and parliamentary elections this year, which will see elections for 14 unions, the People's Assembly, and the Advisory Council. In other words, this year will be packed with political activity, and the government, because of its weakness, opposes forces that are active in society, foremost of which is the MB.

Constitutional Channels

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] But your response to this attack has been quiet. It has not gone beyond statements expressing disapproval, condemnation, and denunciation.

[Al-Hudaybi] We have recourse only to constitutional and legal channels. We cannot take measures that violate the law, such as violent measures. We are absolutely forbidden to attack anyone. It is completely out of the question. Despite the government's illegal and unconstitutional measures, we cannot go the same route by undertaking illegal actions. We adhere to the way of crying out, the way of the truth, wisdom, and good exhortation. Our role model in this is the Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, who did not enjoin aggression against anyone. We must also look to the Koran to provide us with lessons and admonitions.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The security agencies accuse the MB of having relations with America. Is there any truth to this?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is a false accusation with no credible basis. It is merely a matter of the government feeling weak, fearing foreign agencies, and attempting to defame our image. This is nothing new. They accused Imam Hasan al-Banna [the MB's founder] of being an agent of, and taking money from, the British. Over time, documents that had been kept secret revealed that this accusation was fabricated and untrue. These rumors will continue to hound the MB as long as we are active in society.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What is your opinion regarding the accusation made by the security [apparatus] to the effect that the MB coordinates with some young men who engage in violence?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is part of a vicious media campaign intended to damage us and defame our image. What would the government say if it did not say that? Would it say that the MB is holding talks with a view toward entering elections at the same time that it [the government] itself is calling for political participation?

Also, the laws prohibiting the participation of a specific group in elections have been ruled invalid. The Constitutional Court has ruled that the Political Isolation Law is invalid. The leveling of this accusation against us stems from the government's unprecedented failure. If the government is sincere in its assertions, why has it not jailed or tried us?

There Is No Such Thing as the Law

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] President Mubarak has reiterated that there is no such thing as the law. What is your response?

[Al-Hudaybi] This means, in short, that there is no such thing as the law. They used to always call the Zionist entity a so-called entity. Now they are imprisoning people on its behalf.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The government has continued to curb the MB in professional unions through legislation that opposes freedoms, the most recent being amendments to the law. To what extent do you expect the government to succeed in implementing this plan?

[Al-Hudaybi] Those who have called for these amendments are shortsighted. Even the government has real-

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ized that any attempt to implement these amendments will produce extremely dangerous results. The assignment of a judicial committee to supervise elections is only a cover. The mainstay of these amendments, which have thoroughly shaken syndical freedoms, consists of two matters. The first involves the employment of the Army in the political process and the formation of blocs comprising physicians, merchants, and engineers in the armed forces, which support the government's candidates. Military personnel who are members of the Engineers Union total 30,000, and they will certainly vote only for the government's candidates, especially since the amendments stipulate setting up polling stations at the military barracks. Therefore, whoever votes for an opposition candidate will be exposed. In any case, the insertion of the Army in politics is extremely dangerous. What if the results are unexpected?

The second matter is the formation of blocs comprising public enterprises by placing ballot boxes in contracting companies and hospitals. This contradicts the concept of a secret ballot, because the bosses will pressure voters.

We do not reject judicial supervision. We only reject the insertion of the judiciary in administrative activities outside its purview, such as the Army to be exact. Is it reasonable for the judiciary and justices to review 180,000 names on voter lists?

To overcome this obstacle, they said that they would seek the help of other agencies. These agencies will surely be the secret police [mubahith]. For example, there are 0.5 million merchants in the Merchants Union. What are the criteria for selecting who will help the judiciary supervise elections? The upshot is that judicial supervision is merely a cover for the insertion of the judiciary into administrative activities, because supervision is a judicial activity, and intervention in preparations [for elections] is an administrative activity.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How do you view the decisions to impose guards on the professional unions?

[Al-Hudaybi] It is certainly an extremely serious development, because a guard could be imposed on the People's Assembly in a like manner based on judgments that nullify most of its members' membership. Why this arbitrary manner [of dealing] with the unions? The laws require that the unions be subject to supervision. Moreover, they provide for a specific procedure for eliminating the Union Council. In order for this to happen, a number of members must request the convocation of an extraordinary general assembly to discuss such a move. The judiciary's intervention in the union's affairs in this way means the complete elimination of democracy.

If a guard were imposed because there are disputes within the Union Council, I would rejoin that elections always entail disputes, and the voters are the ones to settle them. The Union Council passes decisions not by a consensus, but by a majority, which means that there will be differing viewpoints.

If, as the government argues, there are financial considerations, there are supervisory agencies in charge of taking action regarding them, such as the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Matters Related to Public Funds. Despite the rumors and accusations being circulated by the media, no measures have been taken against any professional. Nor has any professional been convicted. If we assume for the sake of argument that one of them were convicted, why should all of them be disqualified? These measures are illegal. We are of the opinion that military and judicial organizations should stay away from political contests.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The sit-ins, disturbances, and emergency sessions were of no use in dissuading the government from its attempts to control, and remove the Islamic current from, the unions. Could you please comment on this?

[Al-Hudaybi] I cannot speak for the unions. However, clearly, they have raised issues and taken every possible legal measure against the war that has been declared against them. An extraordinary General Assembly approved the termination of the membership of union leader Engineer Hasballah al-Kafrawi, and the engineers reaffirmed their confidence in the existing council and approved the budget and accounts. And, the General Assembly was attended by a representative of the Central Agency, who affirmed the soundness of the union's financial position.

Parties Are Restricted

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Engineer Ibrahim Shukri [Socialist Labor Party leader] has declared that the [Labor Party's] alliance with the MB continues to exist. These statements were praised by Mustafa Mashhur. In view of this, what are your expectations regarding the results of the coming elections, and what is your position on them?

[Al-Hudaybi] The alliance between the Labor Party and the MB is a good thing. It does indeed exist, and we hope that it will continue. Fair elections depend on the extent to which the government respects the law and constitution. This is known in advance. The government will not permit fair elections. For example, the parties are limited in their action. The MB cannot organize a public meeting in a public place; nor can any other party. The largest meeting place permitted is an enclosed

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school yard, which limits attendance to only 200 people, or a bit more.

The dismaying thing is that the government has arrested any MB member found distributing leaflets. How can we address the people if there are no leaflets, especially since the entire media is monopolized by the government, which exploits it to serve its candidates?

I was present during parliamentary elections in Greece. All of the parties used television to reach citizens in their homes. Only the meetings [of political parties] were limited to organizational cadres. This is a matter of freedom and of having an opportunity to address the electorate.

The Police and the Suppression of Intifadah

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What is your position on the latest developments regarding the Palestinian problem?

[Al-Hudaybi] In the past, we have said emphatically that we do not agree with the so-called Oslo or Gaza-Jericho Agreement. We said that the intent of this agreement is to train and hone a Palestinian police force to suppress the Intifadah and all holy-war actions against the usurper, Zionist enemy.

This is underscored by all of the contributions given to the police, whereas nothing has been given to the Palestinian Authority. John Major, on his recent visit, contributed 50 cars to the police and gave nothing to the Authority. Yasir 'Arafat's role in Gaza is limited to managing the Palestinian police.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Could you comment on Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to the MB's main office?

[Al-Hudaybi] Our positions on the Palestinian problem are firm, and 'Arafat is well aware of that. Hence, we did not discuss matters that are already well known. We only decided that Palestinians must not kill Palestinians and that the holy-war operations against the enemy must continue—unopposed by the Palestinian Authority.

Tragedy

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Egypt declared that it would not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty unless the Zionist entity did so. Then, the statements of [Egyptian] political leaders were depicted as departing from this position. What does this purport?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is a tragedy by any measure. The Camp David Accords did not object to Israel's nuclear weapons. How can peace be achieved in the light of this? How can Egyptian negotiators say that there is no war and at the same time not discuss the issue of Zionist nuclear weapons? Unfortunately, Egypt has capitulated and deviated from the Arab line. The Sinai peninsula was demilitarized. Egypt has not even sanctioned peaceful nuclear activity: The Egyptian People's Assembly approved the installation of a nuclear weapon in Marsa Matruh, then a political decision was made to cancel that decision.

During the Gulf crisis, the Western countries rallied Arab and Islamic opinion. They turned to Pakistan, Syria, and Egypt to provide an Arab, Islamic cover for destroying Iraq's capabilities and its nuclear weapon—and the Arabs gave no thought to Israel's nuclear arms. Unfortunately, the Arabs have lost opportunities. When Sadat expelled 20,000 Russian experts from Egypt to obtain American aid, Kissinger said, "We are not a welfare society." The West knows no mercy or good intentions. If the Arabs do not impose condition[s] on the Zionists and if the Arabs do not receive their due by and by, the loss will be enormous.

Their current position [Egypt's leadership] points to the weakness that we see. First we say that we will sign, then we change our minds. This tenuous position is causing us to lose our sense of patriotism and our confidence in our ability to have a strong structure.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Christopher's recent tour to the countries of the Middle East failed. Vice President Al Gore is undertaking similar visits. What are your expectations regarding this visit?

[Al-Hudaybi] Christopher's visit to the region did not fail. Its most important outcome was the clear backtracking in Egypt's position on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Al Gore will do the same thing through a visit aimed at American economic penetration into our affairs. Unfortunately, they give us only the chaff and take the grain. They know nothing of charity, justice, and benevolence. If they see a nation subject to extermination, they help deliver the coup de grace to it. That is the nature of the West, especially America. They exterminated and severely punished the Native Americans. Now, they are helping the Zionists to exterminate the Palestinian people and expel them from their homelands, and they are looking at Chechnya and at Bosnia and Hercegovina, because they have become addicted to debasing and uprooting innocent people from their countries. It is most unfortunate that they have wound up accusing us—with the collaboration of the leaders of the Muslims—of terrorism.

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Libya

Qadhdhafi Said Urging Nuclear Bomb, 'Jihad'

MM1805120295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 May 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Calls for 'Jihad To Liberate Jerusalem,' Urges Arab Nuclear Bomb"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, Reuter — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that the Arabs must make their own nuclear bomb to offset the Israeli nuclear arsenal. And he called for a jihad to liberate Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya has said that the Libyan regime has recently set up a "border guard and surveillance" administration under Colonel al-Mahdi al-'Arabi in place of the customs and border detachments administration under the police.

In a statement, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy in London, the front pointed out that "border security is now the full responsibility of the Armed Forces, and it seems that this administration has begun its tasks... it has confiscated the vehicles of some residents of the border areas, especially Toyota desert vehicles." The front also said that the force's armament "consists of vehicles equipped with medium-range machine guns. Some are equipped with anti-aircraft machine guns [rashshashat]. The force will also be equipped with helicopters."

Editor Assails U.S. Veto, 'New Nazi Alliance'

LD1805130795 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After more than 40 resolutions issued by the so-called Security Council condemning the Israeli enemy for its continued aggression against occupied Palestine, its repressive measures against the Palestinian Arab people, and its expansion at the expense of Arab land, and after the denunciation by the whole world of this enemy's confiscation of Arab land in occupied Palestine, and in order to save the faces of those who signed the surrendering documents with the Israeli enemy, everyone believed until the last moment that the so-called Security Council would issue a resolution last night condemning the Israeli enemy for confiscating other parts of the Arab land in occupied Jerusalem. We were surprised to see the United States using the veto against a UN resolution that all the countries of the world had agreed on, and was supported by the member countries at the so-called Council, except the United States, i.e. it was supported by 14 of the 15 member countries of the Council, and only the United States opposed it.

The JANA Arab affairs editor commented on that by saying:

This confirmed what we have repeatedly said and warned [against] in our analyses, that there was no difference between the Israeli enemy and the United States. They are one single racist, aggressive enemy that is not interested in any logic, and is not bothered about anyone, except its private interests, even if these came at the expense of all humans, or lead to the annihilation of the whole of mankind.

The editor added by saying: This is the new Nazi alliance, made up of the United States and the Israelis, which confirms that the United States and the Israeli enemy are one, and proceed from one aggressive policy against the Arab nation, and implement the same Nazi aggressive policies that are hostile to all mankind.

Sudan

Ministry Assails U.S. Veto, Arab-Israeli Ties

EA1805193795 Khartoum SUNA in English 1708 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, May 18 (SUNA) — An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry Thursday [18 May] criticized use of the United States to the veto against a resolution to compel Israel [in] its decision on confiscation of more Arab lands in eastern al-Quds [Jerusalem].

The source said in a press statement to SUNA [SUDAN NEWS AGENCY] that use of the United States to the veto right in that way contravened with the slogan of democracy which has been chewed by leaders of major powers. [sentence as received]

He said that Sudan earlier caused for reconsidering the procedural and methods of issuing resolutions at the United Nations. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, the source regretted the resort of some Arab countries to normalization of relations with Israel in the times which witness the Zionist state annexes more Arab lands in al-Quds and in flagrant violation of the international charters.

Paper: U.S. Envoy Pays 'Secret Visit' to Rebels

AB1805215895 Paris AFP in English 2103 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, May 18 (AFP) — An independent Sudanese newspaper said Thursday [18 May] that the US ambassador in Khartoum made a secret visit recently to positions of the rebel Sudaese People's Liberation Army in the south.

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According to the paper Akhbar al-Youm, Donald Petterson entered the area from Kenya in a move aimed at unifying the rival southern rebel factions.

While in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, he held a lengthy meeting with leaders of the two main factions, John Garang and Riak Machar, but officials said he was unable to bring the two sides closer together.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese goverment and a representative of former US president Jimmy Carter signed an agreement Thursday on measures to control the destructive Guinea worm disease, the SUNA news agency reported.

The agreement was signed by Sudanese health minister Col. Galwak Deng and the director of Carter's centre for Guinea worm who is currently visiting Sudan. Under the terms of the accord, an office of Carter's centre will be opened in Khartoum.

The national coordinator of the programme for Guinea worm control, Nabil Aziz, said Sudanese Prseident Omar al-Bashir had vowed to send medicines donated by Carter's centre to southern Sudan which is most affected by the disease.

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Gulf Affairs

Yemen's 'Ali Salah Expected To Visit Riyadh

MM1805100395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Faysal Makram: "'Ali Salih To Visit Saudi Arabia Wednesday"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa — Well-informed sources in Sanaa yesterday expected Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within the next few days at the invitation he received recently from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The sources pointed out that the visit, which is expected to take place next Wednesday, is aimed at reinforcing relations between the two countries, as Sanaa and Riyadh have exchanged copies of the officially ratified memorandum of understanding signed by them in Mecca 26 February.

The memorandum deals with the negotiations to resolve border disputes between the two countries and to develop relations between them in all spheres.

The sources added that President 'Ali Salih's visit to Riyadh and his meeting with King Fahd will have a positive impact in terms of advancing the negotiation process which is expected to begin soon between the joint committees stipulated in the clauses of the memorandum of understanding concerning the demarcation of land and sea borders between the two countries, the normalization of the military regime in the border zone, and the reactivation of joint government committees to develop political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Press Criticizes U.S. Security Council Veto

LD1905100695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0318 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 May (SPA) — [Passage omitted] In its editorial this morning, AL-BILAD newspaper reviewed the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presented at the [UN] Security Council the day before yesterday on Israel's illegal confiscation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem, emphasizing the kingdom's firm historical policy of keeping Jerusalem Palestinian and Arab, and protecting its Islamic identity. [passage omitted]

The newspaper expressed its regret over the United States' use of the veto against the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's measures in Jerusalem and demanding their annulment. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "The World after the Veto", AL-MADINAH said that the Islamic world accepted with reluctance the statements made by Madeleine Albright, the U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, when she said more than a week ago that the confiscation of Arab lands in Jerusalem is not a matter which needs to be brought up at the Security Council. At that time the Islamic world thought with all good intention that these statements were of a personal nature and only represented Albright's view.

The paper went on to say: But when the issue of Jerusalem and the Israeli confiscation of Arab lands in eastern Jerusalem was actually brought before the Security Council, it won a clear consensus which Washington aborted by using the veto. This made it clear that what Albright said was not so much a personal view as the stand of the single superpower which undertakes to defend the principles of a world order which is still in the process of being formed.

The paper indicated that the influence of Jewish and Zionist groups in Washington is clear and that there is a wide cultural and civilizational gulf between the United States and Islam and Muslims because of the difference in the concept of political practice in the Islamic world.

The paper concluded its editorial by saying: So that we do not cry over spilt milk, since Washington has now set out its position, the least that the Arab and Islamic world can do is to hasten to open a wide-ranging dialogue with Washington on the dangers of such stands, which may begin [by affecting] the peace process in the Middle East and end with relations of friendship and partnership which have been established over the years between the United States and many Arab and Islamic states.

Under the headline "Guarantees: Gone with the Wind", AL-YAWM newspaper stressed that the U.S. Administration is not only one of the sides in the peace process in the Middle East, but it is also a full partner in the process.

The newspaper said that United States' partnership in the peace process brings with it [the authority] to stipulate at the first round of negotiations in Madrid the inadmissibility for any of the sides to the conflict to introduce any geographical changes to the conditions of the occupied territories before arriving at a comprehensive settlement of the region's crisis. [passage omitted]

The newspaper pointed out that any veto to a resolution condemning the confiscation [of Palestinian land] contradicts the provisions of the guarantees and could lead to the collapse of the vital U.S. role as a sponsor of the peace process.

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For its part, UKAZ also discusses the vote in the UN Security Council on the draft resolution presented by a group of states of the Non-Aligned Movement on the illegality of the recent Israeli decision to take over lands in Jerusalem and the use of the veto by the United States alone to suspend the resolution and prevent it being issued.

It said that a number of states are asking for a revision of the Security Council system, which allows a single state to prevent the will of the international community from working toward protecting security, stability, and peace in any region of the world against the hostile forces which threaten it. [passage omitted recalling UN Security Council resolutions on Palestine]

The paper went on to say that the consensus of the Security Council members, apart from the United States, over the draft resolution indicates that the international community remains loyal to the legal tradition established in confronting Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, including holy Jerusalem.

Yemen

News Agency Views Jerusalem Summit, U.S. Veto

JN1905085395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 18 May (INA) — A Yemeni information source has called for convening a comprehensive Arab summit to confront the challenges facing the Arabs following the U.S. use of the veto for the first time in five years to defeat a draft resolution calling on the Zionist entity to cancel the expropriation of Arab land in east Jerusalem.

In an analysis the agency transmitted today, the international and Arab affairs editor of SABA', the Yemeni news agency, said: The U.S. veto against a draft resolution supported by all the remaining 14 UN Security Council members exposed the U.S. hostility toward the Arabs and their national interests. The source added that the U.S. representative's veto demonstrates that the United States is painstakingly working to undermine the Arab order and expose Washington's spite against Iraq and its people, now that its hostility to everything that is Arab has been exposed.

The Yemeni source noted that the call for an Arab summit to discus the Jerusalem issue as proposed by the Arab League must transcend the current Arab conditions which are based on estrangement and subservience to foreigners. The source said that the success of the upcoming summit might open the door to a comprehensive Arab reconciliation if there is a serious agenda for the Arab leaders to end their silence and seriously consider their fateful issues that have a bearing on the Arab nation's security and stability.

The Yemeni source emphasized that special attention should be given to the Arab reunion and to ending the isolation of Iraq which was at the forefront of Arab lines and the guardian of the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

The Yemeni information source warned against confining the summit to certain states, stressing that such approach will inevitably lead to shaky stands on vital issues such as the Jerusalem and the Arab reconciliation.

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'Official Source:' Veto Will Rekindle 'Struggle'

JN1805195495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1930 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA) — An official source at the Ministry of Culture and Information today said the U.S. Administration sets no store by, and has no respect for, the regimes taking part in the march of surrender [the Arab-Israeli peace process] because winning the support of the Jewish lobby for President Clinton is much more important than these regimes and the rights of Arabs and Muslims.

The source was commenting on the use of the veto by U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright against a resolution supported by 14 members of the Security Council. The resolution considers the seizure of Arab territories by the Zionists in holy Jerusalem null and void and a violation of Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The official source added that the United States has used the veto 82 times in favor of the Zionists and against the Security Council resolutions. The last time was on 31 May 1990 against a resolution setting up an international fact-finding committee to investigate Israeli practices against the residents of the occupied territories.

The source added: Despite the U.S. Administration's complete submission to the control of the Zionist lobby since the term of former President Reagan, President Clinton and his rival, Republican Senator Dole, would not have competed to win the support of the Zionist lobby had it not been for the submissive behavior of some Arabs and their involvement in a series of strategic retreats.

The source added that the U.S. Administration and the advocates of surrender are greatly mistaken if they think that this 83d veto will paralyze Arab will. On the contrary, this veto will promote rejection of surrender and rekindle the struggle against U.S.-Israeli schemes to control the Arab nation.

Newspaper Criticizes U.S. Security Council Veto

JN1905090395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0745 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the United States' insistence on defying the international will and confronting the desire of 14 UN Security Council member states indicates that it is determined to continue to be the faithful defender of the Zionist entity and its expansionist trends, and let its Arab satellites go to hell.

In an article today, the paper adds: The United States' use of the veto against a draft resolution that could have been issued unanimously is a clear sign of the beginning of the end of the United States' control of the UN Security Council, especially since 14 members stood on one side and it stood alone on the other side.

The paper wonders: Will the United States' allies and those panting after the mirage of its aid and support for their issues learn a lesson?

AL-THAWRAH notes: The United States' use of the veto, through its representative Albright, clearly proves that the United States is isolated, not only at the UN Security Council, but also in the international political arena.

Concluding its article, the paper says: This isolation began before this date. It began when the United States threatened to use the veto when it became certain that the UN Security Council member states were planning to adopt a stand toward lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and toward calling on the council to fulfill its obligations enshrined in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, something which is getting closer day after day, as the countdown of the United States' isolation inside and outside the UN Security Council has begun.

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Rabin, Peres Hold Meeting on Political Issues

TA1905115095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a private meeting today which was mainly devoted to the political process, including the results of Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar's talks in Washington and their impact on the negotiations with Damascus. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the foreign minister briefed Rabin on his bureau chief's visit to Qatar, which was aimed at coordinating Peres' visit there, as well as on protests in Jordan over the land expropriations in Jerusalem and on the Arab League's expected meeting on this issue.

The two also discussed internal political issues, including their controversy direct elections for the premiership and Ehud Baraq's inclusion in the government.

Peres on Direct Election Bill, Peace Process

TA1905074995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchor Me'ir Einstein; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, you heard Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warn yesterday against undermining the Labor Party's credibility by deferring the direct elections bill which is due to take effect next year.

[Peres] I also wish to bolster the party's credibility. The party's platform however mentions two things: direct elections for prime minister and direct elections for the Knesset. In a democracy one must be careful to maintain a balance. If one side receives a boost — in this case parliament is hampered by the way in which Knesset members [MK's] are elected — then the requisite balance will be damaged. I am not, however, in any case proposing any deviation from the party's platform. On the contrary, I am suggesting that we fully implement it.

[Einstein] What do you mean in other words?

[Peres] That we pass a bill under which the MK's are also elected in direct elections in their respective voting districts as decided upon by the party.

[Einstein] Could this be a viable option for the next elections?

[Peres] Why not? We still have a few Knesset sessions ahead of us and there is no reason in the world not to do this.

[Einstein] Your statements imply that you are making the holding of direct elections for prime minister conditional on also holding personal elections for the MK's.

[Peres] I am not making anything conditional. The party's platform stipulates this. The platform mentions both issues and in my opinion some party members rushed forward too quickly and misconstrued the content of the party's convention and its platform.

[Einstein] And you are saying that unless there are direct elections to the Knesset there is no point in holding direct elections for the prime minister in the next elections?

[Peres] It puts a large question mark over the issue of direct elections for the prime minister.

[Einstein] Do you or your supporters intend to raise the issue for discussion at the party's convention even in the absence of a prior agreement with the prime minister?

[Peres] Look, I do not have to use the language of ultimatums. I never use such terms. There is constant debate within a party and there can be two opinions without splitting into two camps. There is this fear of expressing a differing view or arguing its merits. I do not see any danger or rift here.

[Einstein] Some people are claiming that this dispute marks the resumption of the war between the different Labor Party camps.

[Peres] This is quite natural. There are all kinds of fearful and suspicious people. We are familiar with our political landscape and one cannot please everyone. Those who are fearful will continue to be afraid and the suspicious will remain skeptical. As things stand now, we have had a lot of disagreements and contrary to all the stories there was never any split.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, perhaps the ambiguity you project with regard to your plans whether or not to run for prime minister in the next elections is fanning the flames between the Labor Party camps?

[Peres] First of all, no one wants things to be any clearer than they are today. I do not have to declare my political intentions today. The time is not ripe for decision and I will not state my position until it is appropriate.

[Einstein] But perhaps this threat contributes to the level of tension?

[Peres] There is no threat or reason for any tension. We are holding constant contacts. There are no bad feelings

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or threats. People are unsuccessfully attempting to create unnecessary dramas here.

[Einstein] One cannot ignore your assertion that your political future depends on the continuation of the peace process.

[Peres] That is true. I have always said this.

[Einstein] In other words, Mr. Peres, there is a possibility that you will run against Rabin for the Labor Party candidacy for prime minister prior to the next elections?

[Peres, laughing] I just told you I will not make any announcements so why do you keep asking?

[Einstein] But you are not ruling out this possibility?

[Peres] You are looking for a scoop. Let me tell you that I will not say anything before it is time. There is no need for any nervousness. I have confidence in the unity of the Labor Party and I am sure of its democratic nature. A party is the forum for airing different views and to discuss various ways to implement them.

[Einstein] When do you feel it will be the right time to announce your plans?

[Peres] When the last date for declaring one's candidacy is announced I will decide whether to run or not.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, let us move on to another matter. Contacts to bring Ehud Baraq into the government are underway. We know that you also spoke with him and attempted to persuade him. Will Baraq join the government soon in your assessment?

[Peres] There is no talk of persuading Ehud Baraq. He is prepared to join the government. We are simply discussing the best time for this.

[Einstein] When do you think he will join?

[Peres] Look, as I see things, the prime minister, not me, is the one who makes the announcements on ministerial appointments. All my contacts with Ehud Baraq are coordinated with the prime minister. There are no problems. It is not my place to make an announcement about this.

[Einstein] Did Ehud Baraq inform you that he will join the Labor Party in any event or is he still considering things?

[Peres] He expressed no doubts to me on this matter.

[Einstein] To conclude our interview, Mr. Peres, I would like to move on to the political process. The Palestinians are now proposing the start of negotiations on the permanent arrangement in light of the difficulties encountered in reaching agreement on the interim accords. Do you think that there is any point in skipping the interim stage and beginning discussions on the permanent arrangement now?

[Peres] Look how many difficulties we are encountering in implementing the interim accords. Will the problems disappear if we start discussing the permanent arrangement? What they are actually proposing is to initiate a huge, fundamental argument which could ultimately kill the chance of implementing the interim accord, not to mention the permanent arrangement. I heard that Faysal al- Husayni is demanding that a freeze on the situation in Jerusalem be made a precondition for negotiations. I do not think this is advisable. We worked quite hard to pave the way for an interim accord amid deep suspicion and great skepticism — with the media from all sides fanning mistrust, spouting criticism, and undermining morale. If we move on to discuss the permanent arrangement now things will only get worse. In my opinion, what we should do now is implement what we have agreed upon.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Rabin: 'Argument' With Authority Over 'Extremists'

TA1905051295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says the current argument with the Palestinian Authority is that it is not dealing effectively enough against Islamic extremists. He said the PLO has stopped attacks against Israel and only those fundamentalist groups such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad are continuing terror. He was speaking at a Labor Party convention in Ramat Gan.

Sarid: Elections Herald de Facto Palestinian State

TA1805183495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 May 95

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by anchor Hayim Yavin in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yavin] Yosi Sarid, this week you gave a bleak forecast of what will transpire if we fail to make progress and abide by the timetable relating to the next stage of the agreement with the Palestinians.

[Sarid] True, but I am convinced we will achieve progress. I want to reiterate that I believe we can reach understandings concerning negotiations on the Palestinian elections and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment by 1 July at the latest. I am convinced we will achieve this. The government is determined to

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abide by this commitment. I said that if, God forbid, we miss this date and bungle the timetable for one reason or another, I see a gloomy forecast for our relations with the Palestinians and the Arab world, especially its moderate elements: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and other countries. In this case I also foresee various problems and tensions within the Israeli political establishment. Let me reiterate, however, that understandings can be reached.

The elections in the territories will hopefully be held during the upcoming autumn. After this happens it will be a completely different ball game. Let me repeat what I have said in the past, that after the elections the Palestinian state will in fact be established in the territories. It is true that officially it will not be called a Palestinian state, but for all intents and purposes it will be an entity on the way to statehood. When this happens Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority [PA] will be better able to fight terrorism. They have already started doing this; over the last few weeks and months they started doing this. Their struggle against terrorism is very efficient; they are carrying out extremely difficult operations, from their point of view. I think we should not be wise guys at their expense, because we too have our problems. I saw what we did when we had to struggle against extremists in our camp. People are already incarcerated over there, and many of our demands of the PA on the terrorism issue have already been met. There are so many pessimists; let us stop this pessimism. Only a year has passed since our withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and despite the disasters it was a great thing which passed successfully.

[Yavin] Do you feel the prime minister is determined in pursuing this move?

[Sarid] I cannot speak for the prime minister. Since I wanted to clarify for myself this issue — although I am very familiar with the prime minister's position — from talks I have held with him over the last few weeks, the prime minister seems to me to be determined in his position. I believe he is determined to reach understandings. He understands that stopping midway means drowning in mid-sea and being left empty handed. I am convinced that the opinions I have just expressed largely reflect the prime minister's opinion.

Shahal Vows To Close PA Institutions in Jerusalem

TA1905051695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says Israel will not allow the Palestinian Authority [PA] to operate any institutions in Jerusalem. He said any PA institutions operating in violation of the agreement with Israel will be closed by force if necessary. He was speaking last night to the Israel and British Commonwealth Association.

[Begin Shahal recording] We are following very closely the declarations by the newspapers, by different Palestinians about the PA activities in Jerusalem. We are following some of the activity that has been detected in the past; semi-police activity from the Orient House. We arrested nine persons who had documents presenting them as a security force, a Palestinian security force. They are waiting for their trial. I presented yesterday to Dr. Nabil Sha'th a document giving him four names of four Palestinian organizations that are supposed to be functioning within Jerusalem. I hope that they are going to close it. He promised me that we will get a prompt answer. I know that some of them have been closed since our talks in Cairo a week before. If they are not going to be closed down, I am certainly going to sign a decree and to close it by force. [end recording]

Shahal said that among Palestinian institutions which have been operating without authority are the Center for Statistics and Information Authority and the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority. The minister added that senior Israeli and Palestinian Police officers are due to meet at Israeli police headquarters in Jerusalem next week to discuss closer cooperation and possible training courses for the Palestinians.

Government Not Sharing U.S. Optimism on Syrian Track

TA1905091395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Avino'am Bar Yosef in Washington and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel's ambassador to Washington Itamr Rabinovich sent a secret report to Jerusalem yesterday stating that sources in the United States have expressed the assessment that progress was made during Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar''s visit to Washington and that the gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions on the principles of the security regime "had been greatly narrowed." [passage omitted]

Jerusalem does not share Washington's optimism. Political sources said yesterday: "The Syrians are misleading the Americans." The sources asserted that the Syrians were ignoring President Clinton's message to Damascus that time was running out and "are behaving as though they have all the time in the world." [passage omitted]

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U.S. Seen Seeking 'Balanced Policy' After UN Veto

TA1905091295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 95 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Aluf Ben, and Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A senior source in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the United States is seeking to conduct a balanced policy in the Middle East despite the veto it imposed in the UN Security Council on a draft resolution regarding the land confiscations in Jerusalem.

According to the source, this is the backdrop for the sharp pronouncements made by U.S. officials in recent days. As an example, the source cited the U.S. position in the multilateral steering committee in Montreaux in favor of holding a debate about Jerusalem and its declaration that the land confiscations do not contribute to the peace process, versus its opposition to the Arabs' proposal to set up a multilateral committee on the issue of Jerusalem.

Reacting to Christopher's remarks that the settlements make the negotiations with the Palestinians some of the most difficult of all time, Uri Ari'el, the secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, suggested that just as "the Americans should not put the Indians on reservations, they should not confine Jews to ghettos anywhere in the world, and certainly not in Eretz Yisra'el."

Nisan Slomiansky, the council's operations officer, said he was glad that thanks to the settlements the State of Israel still has a hope of keeping Judaea and Samaria, "both because these areas are part of the State of Israel and for security and state reasons."

Envoys Told Not To Comment on U.S. Embassy Move

TA1905100095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 95 p 5

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued strict instructions to Israeli representatives in the United States not to make any comments against the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

The instructions were issued in the wake of reports reaching Jerusalem to the effect that some Israeli consuls in the United States had contacted U.S. senators and expressed concern about the possible impact the relocation would have on the peace process. In the instructions sent to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich was asked to make it unequivocally clear to diplomats that Israel regards the relocation of the U.S. Embassy as a domestic U.S. issue.

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Al-Kabariti Calls U.S. Veto 'Unjustifiable'

JN1805114995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Khalil al-Qaryuti in Amman on 18 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Qaryuti] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will today hold contacts to convene an Arab summit and fix a date for it. Has Jordan received an invitation? When do you expect the summit to be held?

[Al-Kabariti] We in the Foreign Ministry are in constant contact with Cairo. So far we have not received anything from the Arab League or its secretary general. There is no information on or confirmation of the summit, its date, or the states that are invited. We are coordinating stand with the Palestinian side and will meet with a number of Palestinian ministers who are visiting Amman. We will see if there is any new developments and put you in the picture, God willing.

[Al-Qaryuti] Reports say that a number of Arab leaders will hold another meeting on Jerusalem. Do you have any information on this meeting?

[Al-Kabariti] Efforts now are devoted to holding a summit. The idea is that it will be a mini-summit. As I said yesterday, the idea has not been crystallized and it is being discussed between His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and the Arab League secretary general. We are awaiting news from the secretary general.

[Al-Qaryuti] The United States has used the veto against the UN Security Council resolution concerning the confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Kabariti] I am not able to reconcile the just and balanced political logic which is based on international legitimate resolutions and which was expressed by the U.S. Administration's statement on Senator Dole's proposal to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem on the one hand, and the unjustifiable and non-neutral logic toward a balanced draft resolution based on international justice and resolutions that was presented to the Security Council on the other hand. I believe that the U.S. stand at the Security Council is disappointing, that it causes concern. The United States has appeared to be strong as far as Israel is concerned, but has appeared equally weak vis-a-vis the international community. It also has fully contradicted what it calls for; namely, the need to respect international legitimacy and justice and revering the views of the international community. It is really an unjustifiable stand which is embarrassing for the United States in the first place.

Links Veto to Election Considerations

JN1805181295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that the U.S. position at the UN Security Council [UNSC] over the land confiscations in east Jerusalem may show the United States as powerful in Israel's eyes. Nevertheless, this will also certainly show it as a party that is opposed to the wishes of the international community, and also to international legitimacy and justice. All this is done for election purposes, he argued.

Al-Kabariti added that this position is self-contradictory, and reflects double standards.

Al-Kabariti went on to say that he met with U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan at the Foreign Ministry this morning to express Jordan's protest against the U.S. decision. He also met the ambassadors of Britain, France, Russia, and Germany, and relayed to them Jordan's thanks for the positions of their countries, which supported the draft resolution.

The other 14 UNSC members voted in favor of the draft resolution last night. However, the veto by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations was sufficient to block its passage.

Al-Kabariti said that he cannot reconcile the just and balanced political logic based on international legitimacy resolutions which was reflected in the U.S. Administration's statement on Senator Bob Dole's bill regarding the relocation to Jerusalem of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, with this unwarranted and non-neutral position toward a draft resolution supported by 14 allied and friendly nations.

The draft resolution reiterated that the land expropriation in east Jerusalem by Israel, the occupying power, is null and void, and in violation of the relevant UNSC resolutions, and also of the provisions enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949. The draft resolution also calls on Israel to rescind the land confiscations, and desist from such measures in the future.

The draft resolution also expressed full support for the peace process and urged the parties concerned to honor the agreements concluded.

Paper Calls U.S. Veto 'Serious Stab' to Peace

JN1905073295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 May 95 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The U.S. Veto and the Required Response"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The veto used by the United States at the Security Council in connection with Israel's

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expropriation of 530 hectares of Palestinian land in Eastern Jerusalem is a serious stab to peace and a flagrant violation of international norms. The veto also encourages Israel to continue its aggression against Arab lands and to reap the fruit of this aggression, with clear U.S. support.

The U.S. position was expected, since U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said a few weeks ago when she visited Israel that the Security Council is not the proper venue to resolve the problem of the expropriation of Palestinian Arab territories. She said her country believes that the parties concerned should sit together to resolve this crisis away from the Security Council.

Jordan has adopted a firm and principled stand toward this veto, by rejecting all Israeli attempts that are supported by the United States to continue to expand in the city of Jerusalem. In addition, Jordan believes that the U.S. position on this issue in not balanced, since the Security Council is the main champion of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The statements made by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday in response to the U.S. veto express a clear position on Islamic shrines and criticize the U.S. attitude toward the UN draft resolution. Al-Kabariti said the U.S. position on the Security Council resolution is disappointing and causes concern because it conflicts with the declared positions of the U.S. Government.

As a matter of fact, the United States looked weak and powerless by taking such a stand before the international community, because this veto encourages the aggressor to pursue its aggression against the Palestinian land and people and obstructs the peace process in the region. The foreign minister also remarked that this stand may show the United States as powerful in the eyes of Israel. However, this will certainly show it as a weak nation in the eyes of the international community. The United States also contradicted the principles it advocates, such as respect for international legitimacy and for the opinion of the international community.

The U.S. veto is surprising. It raises real questions about Washington's ability to play the role of honest broker, as it puts it. The Arab and Islamic states and the nonaligned bloc should act promptly. They should take a joint and decisive action to abort the U.S. veto and make Israel cease its provocative actions and inhuman practices toward the Palestinian people and violations of Islamic lands and holy places, contrary to the spirit and letter of the Oslo agreement.

Therefore, the required response is to hold a mini Arab summit in Morocco to be attended by the leaders of the concerned Arab states. The purpose of this is to make a decisive decision to stop Israeli violations in Arab lands and reply to America's disregard for international legitimacy, which gives Israel the right to reap the fruit of its aggression and its blatant defiance of the international community.

Foreign Ministry: No Mediation Between Iraq, Israel

JN1805161595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 18 May 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by 'Isam al-Majali]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has asserted that a report carried by a U.S. news agency about Jordanian mediation between Israel and Iraq, begun by former Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali while leading the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks in Washington, does not express the Jordanian Government philosophy or foreign policy.

In a telephone interview with AL-ASWAQ, Ahmad al-Mubayyidin, official spokesman for the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, denied this report. Al-Mubayyidin said Jordan may play clear and public roles in furthering peace in the Middle East. This is part of Jordan's clear public diplomacy via the Arab League, bilateral Arab ties, diplomatic activity at the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and the multilateral negotiations.

Al-Mubayyidin added that Jordan has spelled out its position on all issues that are put on specific agendas, such as the environment, arms control, and economic cooperation. He said Jordan could offer its good offices in a crisis situation to contain tension among nations. However, what has been suggested is not in this context and is not part of Jordan's clear foreign policy. This policy depends on public principles. Jordan will not play the role of a godfather for Israel, he said.

On resuming the technical talks between Jordan and Israel, al-Mubayyidin said the seizure of land in Jerusalem has confused the political and diplomatic efforts to discuss common issues between Jordan and Israel, particularly economic issues. He added that the reason for this is that Israel's policy toward Jerusalem conflicts with the Washington Declaration and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the purpose of which is to achieve stability, just peace, and mutual confidence.

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Islamic Deputies Urge Resisting Normalization Laws

JN1805202695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 May

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian opposition deputies have called for resisting the normalization laws and the draft law on rescinding Jordanian laws prohibiting dealing with Israel. The draft law will be presented by the Jordanian Government to the House of Representatives during its extraordinary term.

In a statement today, deputies of the Islamic Action Front at the Jordanian House of Representatives said that the laws that need to be rescinded are the law banning the selling of real estate, the unified law for the boycott of Israel, and the law banning trade with Israel. The deputies asked: Have the causes of hostility been removed for those laws to be annulled? Have the aggressors gone back on their aggression? Has Israel evacuated the territories? Have they suspended their nuclear program or stopped seizing and confiscating land? Most recently, Israel has confiscated 535 dunums of land around Jerusalem.

The statement stresses that annulling the three laws constitutes a serious threat to Jordan because Israel has expansionist objectives in Jordan. The statement adds: Rescinding the law banning the selling of real estate will allow the Israelis to possess houses and land and will give them a legitimate right to every piece of land sold to them in Jordan, even if that took place dozens of years ago. The Wadi al-'Arabah agreement has given them special ownership rights in al-Baqurah in the north and al-Ghamr in the south, something which led to the planting of two Israeli settlements on Jordanian soil.

The statement adds that abrogating the unified law for the boycott of Israel will drive Jordan out of the Arab consensus. The abrogation of the law banning trade with Israel will leave the door wide open for Israel to control the Jordanian market and turn it into a next-door market.

Meanwhile, competent Jordanian authorities informed the preparatory committee for the popular Jordanian conference for protecting the homeland and confronting normalization of their approval of the convocation of the conference on 29 May. The preparatory committee held a news conference in Amman yesterday in which it stressed its determination to hold the popular conference on 26 May, whether the Jordanian authorities agree or not. Sources at the preparatory committee said that the committee received the Jordanian Government's approval of the convocation of the conference on the new date of 29 May, provided that the venue of the conference be changed from the Professional Unions Complex to the Amman Fair opposite the University of Jordan.

It is noteworthy that the Amman governor had informed the opposition parties of his rejection of the convocation of the conference on 27 April. However, those parties decided to proceed with their plans to hold the conference.

Government Allows Conference

JN1805191795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian authorities today gave permission to the parliamentary opposition to hold a popular conference in Amman against normalization with Israel.

The Jordanian opposition had asked to hold the conference on 20 April. However, the Jordanian authorities, at the time, turned down the request.

Daily Claims Hamas Leaders Ordered To Leave

JN1905101895 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 20 May 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources within the Muslim Brotherhood have told SHIHAN that the Jordanian Government is planning to take new measures regarding the presence of some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members in Jordan. According to these sources, Jordanian Government agencies have asked a number of Hamas leaders in Amman to leave Jordan very shortly. The sources said the Hamas leaders were given a deadline to pack up and prepare to leave by 1 June. Some Muslim Brotherhood quarters say the purpose of these measures is to halt any Hamas activities in Jordan, even if these were confined to media action.

According to the same sources, the security services have told 'Imad al-'Alami and Musa Abu-Marzuq that they should leave Jordan before the deadline expires. Al-'Alami is a prominent Hamas leader and official in charge of the movement in the Republic of Iran. He holds a Jordanian passport and resides in Jordan. Abu-Marzuq is a member of the movement's political bureau and holds a Yemeni passport and a U.S. passport. He resides in Jordan most of the time.

Muslim Brotherhood sources told SHIHAN the request made by the security services has prompted the Brotherhood leadership to hold a meeting to study the dimensions of this decision and ways to revoke it. The Brotherhood decided to send a group that includes some of its leaders, Islamic deputies, and representatives of the Hamas Movement to the Prime Ministry to meet with the officials. This meeting took place, according

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to the sources, and the issue of the request of the security services was raised. In addition, the conferees discussed what the sources termed as security harassments of Hamas members in Jordan. The sources added that the conferees did not come out with any positive results. According to the sources, Prime Ministry officials told the delegation that the decision was made by higher quarters, and was not issued by the Prime Ministry.

Islamists fear these measures are a prelude to other measures on a larger scale in the coming days to uproot the Hamas presence in Jordan. The same sources recalled what happened to Ibrahim Ghawshah, a prominent Hamas leader and official spokesman for the movement, around two months ago when he was in the company of Islamic deputy Bassam al-'Umush in the deputy's car. They were surprised by security services stopping the car and asking Ghawshah to go with them. Ghawshah was asked then to hand in his passport, but he refused to do so, since he is a Jordanian citizen protected by the law. Muhammad Nazzal, the movement's representative in Jordan, has also been asked to hand in his passport.

The Muslim Brotherhood considers the government's measures to cut the movement down to size in Jordan as a submission to Israeli and U.S. demands and to the desire of the Palestinian autonomous authority, a demand which Israel has been repeatedly raising in most of the official meetings between the two countries, especially after operations in which Hamas killed Israelis in the Palestinian territory. Informed sources say that the Israeli side is still pressuring the Jordanian Government to stop what Israel calls the terrorist activities based in Amman and that this demand was recently conveyed to the Jordanian Government by Jordanian ambassador Marwan al-Mu'ashshir.

The same sources say that the pressure on Jordan in this connection was not confined to Israel and the PLO and that the United States also exercised pressure. This prompted the Jordanian Foreign Ministry to issue a statement several days ago to defuse the matter. The statement stated that Jordan reiterates its determination not to allow any party or nonparty organizations to carry out activities inside Jordan or to use Jordan as a springboard for operations against any neighboring country.

The statement was issued following the Jordanian Government officials' repeated statements that the government does not allow any unlicensed organization to carry out any activities in Jordan. However, these statements have always indicated that elements from these organizations are in fact Jordanian citizens and that they are being dealt with as such.

Commenting on the possibility of closing down the Hamas office and ending its presence in Jordan, an Islamic House of Representatives member said that if this materializes it will be a regrettable move by the Jordanian Government proving that it responds to will of Israel.

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Al-Hariri on Resignation; Asked To Be 'Caretaker'

NC1905104195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has submitted his government's resignation to President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who has accepted it and asked the government to stay as a caretaker government. This came after a one-hour meeting between al-Hirawi and al-Hariri. Speaking afterward, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: I have previously expressed my desire to resign to give positive momentum to Lebanese political life and to the economic, national, and development achievements made; I believe the circumstances are now suitable for shifting to a new and cohesive governmental position that could set the scene for a new era of cooperation among state institutions and prevent any sabotaging of political, economic, and national stability.

The following statement was issued by the General Directorate of the Presidency:

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has tendered his government's resignation to his excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The president accepted the government's resignation, thanking the prime minister and ministers for their cooperation and their work in following up the march of national accord, development, and reconstruction. His excellency the president asked the government to remain as a caretaker government until a new government is formed.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri is scheduled to visit the presidential palace for a meeting with President al-Hirawi.

Buwayz Predicts U.S. Veto Will Create 'Disorder'

NC1805170195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the United States' veto of the Security Council resolution denouncing Israel's expropriation of Arab land in Jerusalem proves once again that the United States parrots Israel's stands. He noted that this measure will create disorder in the peace process and will destroy confidence in the participating parties.

At a news conference today, Buwayz expressed his fear that this move will cause frustration and will be detrimental to fair UN resolutions and positive interaction between nations.

Asked about the reopening the Japanese Embassy, he said this is a very important measure that illustrates Japan's interest in Lebanon and appreciation of its future role, especially as Japan is among the countries that might contribute to peacekeeping forces in the region.

Israeli Overflights, Shelling; Clashes With Amal

NC1905062695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli combat aircraft overflew Beirut and its suburbs shortly before midnight last night and were confronted by Lebanese Army antiaircraft fire.

The Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the outlying parts of Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, and the vicinity of Qasr Ghandur with 120-mm mortars shortly after 2100 yesterday. They also fired bursts of automatic fire against these villages with 12.7-mm machine guns.

The Amal Movement announced that it repulsed an Israeli unit that tried to advance from its position in al-Dabshah toward the 'Ali al-Tahir woods. According to an Amal statement, the Israelis suffered casualties and lost a tank at the al-Dabshah position.

Amal also said that two of its groups attacked the al-Burj and 'Ali al-Tahir positions.

The resistance bombarded two positions held by Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army] in Sujud and al-Ghizlan with artillery and Katyusha rockets.

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Radio Comments on Peres' Golan Withdrawal Proposal

JN1805160195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 18 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres recently announced that Israel is willing to withdraw to international borders. The fact is that the extent defined by Peres for withdrawal from the Golan does not fall outside proposals for partial withdrawal, which Syria rejects because they mean that Israel insists on keeping some of the territories it occupied in the Golan given that Syria's position on this issue is very clear. Syria does not accept anything less than a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. These borders constitute the 1949 armistice line drawn by the armistice agreements signed on the Island of Rhodes in that year under the supervision of U.S. politician Ralph Bunche, the assistant UN secretary general at the time. Israel crossed this armistice line on 5 June 1967. The UN resolutions commit Israel to withdrawal to this line. Hence, there is no point of any Israeli talk about international borders.

This announcement by Peres is further proof that the peace process has not made real progress because Israel has not yet announced its commitment to withdraw from all of the occupied Syrian territories. This is despite the fact that withdrawal is the basis of the international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle on which the U.S. initiative was based. In other words, withdrawal forms the basis of the peace process terms of reference.

Israel refrains from announcing this commitment, insists on the idea of partial withdrawals and partial solutions, and occasionally beckons to hold illegitimate referendums. Moreover, it appoints itself as a judge over other parties' intentions although it is a party to the problem. This constitutes some aspects of the intransigence with which Israel is facing Syria's sound intentions, its announcement that a just peace is its strategic choice, and that it is seeking peace proceeding from a real desire for a just peace.

This Israeli intransigence is not a secret to the world which knows that Syria's concern over its rights equals its aspiration for a just peace. Moreover, the world is certain that Syria did not ask to be above any party in terms of security arrangement. Indeed, it is asking for equitable [mutakafi'ah] and equal [mutasawiyah] arrangements on both sides. Furthermore, countries and peoples of the world realize that Syria did not ask to be excluded from any agreement that reinforces a just peace. Indeed, it is asking for one standard for all which permits cleansing the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction. Peoples and countries of the world are also aware that Syria did not ask for privileges. Hence, it will not allow for any ambitions in its territories.

A comparison between the Syrian and Israel positions accurately sets the gap between the two positions and between the Syrian facilitation of the peace process — while maintaining the pan-Arab constants — and Israel's intransigent insistence on keeping the territories of others by force and by violating international law and the international community resolutions.

The international community is accurately aware of these facts. It also realizes the importance of the Middle East regarding the peace of the international family, the stability of its resources, and the prosperity of its peoples. Hence, the international community knows that a just peace will not be achieved unless Israel stops its intransigent and negative stands and commits itself to international community resolutions.

Radio Urges 'Equitable,' 'Reciprocal' Security

JN1305154995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 13 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Throughout the peace process, Israel did not hide its aspiration to achieve peace and, at the same time, keep the occupation under various pretexts — foremost among which is the security issue and the related security considerations — in a way that turns peace into Israeli gains. These Israeli gains are at the expense of those who own territories and rights and at the expense of the Arab nation whose resources, presence, and identity are targeted by Israel's proposals dealing with cooperation and development projects. All this is taking place under the umbrella of an Israeli military edge in terms of conventional and nonconventional weapons that enables Israel to exercise hegemony over the region.

From this particular perspective, Israel's hostile practices reveal more hostile military haughtiness and arrogance as well as Israel's flagrant disdain of international legitimacy, Security Council resolutions, the international community's willpower, and the peace efforts.

Also from this particular perspective, Israel worked on concluding partial and inequitable [la mutakafi'ah] deals. Israel achieved breakthroughs without offering what is required to achieve peace. Through secret negotiations, which led to the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements, Israel worked on burying the framework of

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the Madrid conference, and thus, ignoring the Security Council resolutions which were the basis for launching the peace process and which remain the basis for establishing a just and comprehensive peace. Therefore, Israel fabricated difficulties on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and planted them with obstacles and mines. It did so because it could not apply on these two tracks what it had achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks — achievements which were later proven to be futile.

Israel worked on provoking tension in southern Lebanon by terrorizing it. It exercised pressure on Syria and tried to make it budge from its firm positions on a just and comprehensive peace based on a full withdrawal, which is the foundation of entrenched peace and solid stability in the region.

Throughout the peace process, Israel did not stop accusing Syria of obstructing peace until it became a riddle and a difficult equation, even though peace is not like this. Its path continues to be very clear. Whoever wants to reach peace knows the way, which, as we always reiterated, starts with Israel's commitment to a full withdrawal, as stipulated by the Security Council resolutions, and its acceptance of the principle of equal [mutasawiyah], parallel [mutawaziyah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and reciprocal [mutaqabilah] security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders.

Shuffling cards to avoid the requirements of peace and drowning the talks in such apprehensions about security and security arrangements do not serve the peace which all parties supposedly have a real interest in.

Israel knows the two roads. The road of pushing the peace process forward according to objective bases and the road of revolving in a vicious circle. The future of the peace process depends on Israel because, as all observers and those concerned know, Syria is serious about achieving a just peace that guarantees right, dignity, security, and stability for all.

Commentary: No Peace Alongside Israeli Occupation

JN1405145395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 14 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The developments in the peace process have led to the conclusion that Israel does not want peace. We have frequently said that Israel does not want peace and this impression did not come out of a vacuum, nor is it mere speculation, but rather it comes from the practical positions and tangible obstacles Israel has placed on the path of peace and its just concept and balanced [mutawazinah] terms.

Israel is now placing more obstacles and creating difficulties in order to drag the region into a labyrinth that will be difficult to move out of even with new efforts many times greater than the current efforts designed to remove the obstacles to peace.

Expropriating the lands of Jerusalem by force, defying the will of the international community anew, disregarding the law, circumventing the basics of discipline and commitment, and other practices do not conform in any way with the attitudes of peace. They conflict with these attitudes in part and parcel.

Moreover, monopolizing and promoting nuclear arms and rebelling against the bodies concerned with nuclear nonproliferation, as well as exempting Israel from the usual restrictions and terms and encouraging it to persist in violating the law, are not in line with the developments, though limited, of the peace process. They even conflict with the noble objectives the world is seeking to achieve all over and on many levels.

Needless to say, such practices, which are designed to enhance occupation, expand settlement activity, or consolidate the capability of aggression through the most dangerous weapons, not only threaten regional security and peace but also world security and peace. All such practices are considered part of a conspiracy against peace, a new aggression on rights, and a serious violation of the simplest bases of peace.

Peace cannot coexist with occupation. Likewise, peace cannot coexist with the serious imbalance Israel is eager to maintain and consolidate in a way that will abort all efforts, dispel all intentions, and put the region to a difficult test. However, we still cling to peace as a strategic option that will regain lands and rights and set up strict controls for the aggressive conduct that has been pursued for several decades in the region.

In order to follow the path of real peace, the obstacles should be removed, the difficulties should be surmounted, and the way to peace should be opened. This, however, cannot take place unless Israel stops its policies and reconsiders what it has done. This responsibility should be simultaneously assumed by Israel, the international community and its institutions, and the custodians of world security and peace.

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Paper: Israeli Land Seizures Reflect Policy

JN1705194495 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 15 May 95 p 3

[From the "With the Events" column by Riyad Mahmud: "On the Anniversary of the Usurpation of Palestine, the Plotting has not Ceased"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the convening of the Basel conference in Switzerland in 1897, the confiscation of Arab land and the eviction of local residents have remained a top priority for successive Israeli governments.

Suffice to say that the Jewish population in Palestine prior to the British mandate did not exceed 5 percent of the total population of the country, and that the area of the land that was under Jewish control was very much less.

This is indicative of the horrendous crime the Zionist movement committed against Palestine and the Palestinian people in an unprecedented international collusion. Nonetheless, it would be the height of criminality to condone the continued criminal Israeli activities in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in Jerusalem, especially since these activities are taking place under the very nose of the entire world community.

Despite its alleged desire for peace, the Rabin government commits the most heinous crimes against the Palestinian lands and people on a daily basis. It recently announced the confiscation of thousands of hectares of Arab land in the city of Jerusalem to use for settlement construction. It is true that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that the confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem would be taken up in talks with Yitzhaq Rabin during his Washington visit. However, no sooner had Rabin returned to Jerusalem than his government announced the confiscation of more Arab land there. This development puts a big question mark on the talks held in Washington on this issue.

Undoubtedly, the Yitzhaq Rabin government has taken advantage of the partial and separate deals it has concluded with some Arab sides, particularly the Oslo deal signed with the Palestinians, who are now controlling the autonomous areas. Taking advantage of these deals, the Rabin government announced its recent decisions regarding the confiscation of Arab land. It has benefited from the disarray and fragmentation plaguing the Arabs, who are not in a position to stand up firmly to such measures.

The criminal murders, pursuit and displacement of people, house demolitions, and land confiscations carried out by Israel will stigmatize mankind throughout history. This is because this conduct is in violation of the most basic ethical, humane, and social norms that distinguish man from other species.

The international community is required to search its soul. As for the Arabs, they are required to awaken to the long-term plots being hatched against them in colonialist lobbies. These plots are aimed at wiping the Arabs out of existence. Can we bring ourselves to accept such a fate?

We all should be ready to properly address future eventualities; for history will not be lenient with spineless and collusive parties.

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India

Rao Urged To Make 'Peace,' Avoid Party Split

BK1905051295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 19 May 95

[Report by M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 19 (AFP) — India's embattled Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was under pressure Friday [19 May] to make peace with his critics as thousands gathered here for a rebel convention which could split the ruling party.

Rao loyalists, eager to avoid a break-up of the 109-year-old Congress (I) party, were pressing the prime minister to make last-minute overtures to the dissidents, party sources said here.

Rao's likely course of action was not known, but a spokesman for the rebels said they were pressing ahead with plans to hold Friday's convention, which is expected to split the country's oldest party for the third time.

"We are going ahead as scheduled," said K.K. Tewari, a former minister. "Whatever Rao does will be too little, too late. He should have done something concrete much earlier."

The loyalist camp was stunned after more than 100 Congress MPs appealed to Sonia Gandhi, the charismatic widow of former premier Rajiv Gandhi, to prevent a break-up of the party and take on the mantle of party chief.

Stung by the move, the otherwise belligerent loyalist camp appeared eager to show Friday that it was not ruling out the possibility of a rapprochement with the increasingly aggressive dissidents.

"As far as unity is concerned, it is never too late and the door is not closed," said Civil Aviation Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, a Rao confidant. "The break will not be from our side."

Sonia, who holds tremendous clout within the ruling party, has rejected previous offers to take over the leadership of the Congress from Rao and was unlikely to change her position, party sources said.

Rao, 73, held closed-door talks with supporters overnight after a senior cabinet minister, C.K. Jaffar Shariff, joined the growing chorus against his leadership of the Congress.

The "political achievements of Rao's government are zero," said Shariff in a rare public display of disaffection with the prime minister.

"The (prime minister) has failed to sort out the internal crisis within the party," Shariff added. "It is high time Congress leaders sat together to find a way to strengthen the party."

More than 5,000 Congress leaders and activists from across the country would attend Friday's convention where rebel leaders will christen their group as the "real Congress party," spokesman Tewari said.

"There is no doubt we are the real Indian National Congress," Tewari said, using the official name of the party set up in 1885 under the British Raj. "Today we shall proclaim it officially."

Such an announcement would formalise the schism within the Congress between supporters of Premier Rao and his chief critic, former minister Arjun Singh who quit the cabinet in December.

It would be the third split in the Congress since India's independence in 1947. During both the previous breakups — in 1969 and 1978 — former prime minister Indira Gandhi was the party leader.

The Congress has lost elections in six major states since December, putting into doubt Rao's ability to lead the party to victory in parliamentary polls due early next year.

Rao became prime minister in June 1991 for five years.

'Dissidents' Urge Rao Resignation

BK1905075695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 19 May 95

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 19 (AFP) — Rebel members of India's Congress (I) party urged Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to step down as party leader at a rally here Friday [19 May] expected to lead to a split in the country's oldest political body.

More than 30,000 anti-Rao Congress members attended the "Congress Workers Convention" called to bring about a change in leadership of the 109-year-old party ahead of general elections next year, witnesses said.

"Narasimha Rao is not our president as of today," said Satyanarayan Rao, a Congress leader from Andhra Pradesh, Rao's home state, to thunderous applause from the crowd packed into a huge tent to ward off the searing summer sun.

Speaker after speaker blasted the Rao government's free-market economic reforms and blamed the 73-year-old prime minister for a string of humiliating defeats for the Congress in recent state elections.

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"We are announcing the formation of the real Indian National Congress here today," said K. Ramamurthy, an MP from the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

"Rao is a fake," added Bhagwat Jha Azad, a former chief minister of the eastern state of Bihar. "The real Congress is here."

Sources in the dissident camp said that Narain Dutt Tiwari, a 71- year-old politician from Uttar Pradesh state and a leader of the anti-Rao revolt, was likely to be elected president of the rebel faction of the party.

As the dissidents' convention got underway, some 15,000 Pro-Rao Congress held a counter-demonstration to voice their support for the beleagured prime minister, witnesses said.

Maninder Singh Bitta, who heads the Indian Youth Congress (I), accused Arjun Singh, a rebel leader who quit the Rao cabinet and was expelled from the party in February, of "playing a devious game to gain political mileage."

Dismissing rebel claims that Rao was incapable of leading the Congress to victory in next year's general elections, Bitta said "Rao is the only leader for India. There is no alternative."

The venue for the rebel rally was festooned with green, orange and white party flags and dominated by huge cutouts of former Congress prime ministers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi and historical leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi.

The pro-Rao demonstrators also sought to claim the Gandhi political legacy with marchers waving posters of the assassinated former premiers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi.

Pro- and anti-Rao Congress leaders were seeking meanwhile to woo the support of Sonia Gandhi, the widow of Rajiv Gandhi, who wields tremendous clout in the ruling party but prefers to remain quietly behind the scenes.

More than 100 Congress MPs urged Sonia Gandhi on Thursday to intervene to prevent a break-up of the party and to take on the mantle of party president.

Sonia Gandhi has rejected previous offers to take over the leadership of the Congress from Rao and was unlikely to change her position, party sources said.

A political manifesto distributed by the rebels urged Rao to step down as Congress president saying that under his leadership "this great organization has been reduced practically to a (?nonentity)."

"The rank and file of the party cannot become idle spectators and allow the Congress party to become a shield to protect corruption, inaction and authoritarian capriciousness," the document said.

In an economic statement to be presented at the convention, the dissidents lashed out at the economic liberalisation begun by Rao after taking power in June 1991.

"The economic policies of the present government are widely perceived to be anti-poor," they said. "Economic liberalisation as pursued by Narasimha Rao has come to be generally perceived as serving the interests of the rich."

"The ease with which foreign corporations are allowed to take over majority control of blue-chip Indian corporates has become a cause of concern even for our progressive industrialists," the rebel document said.

The rebels said that while they do not oppose the fundamental premise of the economic reforms, there was a "need to set right the course of the reform programme... to win back the faith of the Indian people to the Congress."

The Congress has split twice previously since India's independence in 1947. During both the previous breakups — in 1969 and 1978 — former prime minister Indira Gandhi was the party leader.

Iran

Reportage, View of U.S. Security Council Veto Seen To 'Encourage Tel Aviv'

NC1805194895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 May 95

[News report]

[FBIS Translated Text] After refusing to discuss the Israeli expropriation of Palestinian lands at the UN Security Council and threatening to veto such a resolution, the U.S. UN delegate on Wednesday [17 May] vetoed a UN Security Council resolution demanding that Israel reverse its decision to confiscate Palestinian lands. This occurred despite the phrasing of the resolution by the six nonaligned council members, which did not condemn the Zionist entity's expropriation of 53 hectares of Palestinian land in eastern Jerusalem, in hopes of averting a U.S. veto.

Experts believe that the U.S. veto reflects Washington's outright rejection of the efforts of the Arab states that back the settlement approach and that view the settlement agreements as a guarantee for sustaining the Middle East peace process.

Hence, the falsity of Washington's claims, its bias toward its strategic ally in the region, and its refusal

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to alter its support for Israel have once again become clear. Moreover, the U.S. veto is yet another failure on the part of the PLO, the self-rule Authority, and some Arab states. That Authority, together with those Arab states, were hoping to put pressure on the Israeli entity to force it to honor its commitments by taking the issue to the Security Council.

Experts believe that the veto will encourage Tel Aviv to keep up its inhuman and illegal policy against Palestinians and Arabs. At the same time, the veto reflects another fact; namely, that the parties engaged in the bargain with Tel Aviv should not pin their hopes on treaties and agreements with it. They should expect more pressure from the Zionist entity and the United States.

Proves U.S. Bias Towards Israel

LD1805220795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 18 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following the initial U.S. opposition to the assertion of the issue on the Israeli expropriation of Muslim Palestinian lands and the UN Security Council and the American threat to veto it, the U.S. representative in the UN eventually, Wednesday night, May 17, vetoed a resolution presented by the Council.

The resolution had called for the cancellation of expropriation orders involving the Palestinian lands. The resolution presented by six Nonaligned [Movement] members of the Security Council, in a bid to solicit U.S. support, had even refrained from denouncing the Zionist regime's move in confiscating 53 hectares of the Palestinian lands in eastern al-Bayt al-Muqaddas.

In the opinion of experts, the vetoing of the resolution by America shows explicit opposition of Washington to the efforts of some Arab states that support the compromise the process and also the agreements reached by them for guaranteeing the Middle East peace talks. This has once again proved that despite the claims of neutrality by the White House in the compromise deal between the Arab and Israeli negotiating sides, Washington stresses only on the preservation of its strategic ally in the region, namely Israel. It has also shown that America will not change its policies in this regard. Moreover, the vetoing of the draft resolution of the Security Council by America is yet another unsuccessful experience for the PLO, the so-called autonomous organization, and some of the Arab countries. The reason is that the autonomous organization, followed by the Arab states, hoped by taking the issue to the Security Council to compel the Israeli regime to adhere to its commitments. Also this measure could be a justification for the PLO insistence on continuing its compromise line with the occupier regime.

In the opinion of observers employment of the veto tactic, besides encouraging Tel Aviv in continuing with its inhuman and illegal policies against the Palestinians and the Arabs, also indirectly conveys another meaning that the countries compromising with Tel Aviv cannot be sure of enforcing the treaties and agreements which they conclude with Tel Aviv and they are also required to tolerate greater pressures.

Perry's 'Double-Check Policy' Remarks Viewed

LD1905143295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 19 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, at the Foreign Relations Council in New York on Thursday 18 May, once again repeated Washington's claims concerning Iran's buildup of forces and emplacement of anti-vessel batteries and missiles and chemical weapons near the Strait of Hormuz. He described Iran and Iraq as the leading military powers in the Middle East region. Elaborating on what is so-called the American double-check policy, he said: Our goal is to contain and isolate the Governments of Iran and Iraq.

It is to be noted, however, that the U.S. defense secretary, during his trip to the Persian Gulf region last March and his meeting with the leaders of several regional states, reiterated this claim. What is taken for granted is the fact that reiteration of such baseless allegations on the part of the Washington statesmen is indeed to justify that country's military buildup in the Persian Gulf region.

Encouragement of the Persian Gulf littoral shaykhdoms to purchase larger amounts of arms and their storage rank as one of the goals of the West and, in particular, America which has materialized through pretending the insecurity and unsafe conditions in the region. [sentence as heard]

Based on the statistics published within the space of time between the years 1990 and 1993, over $55 billion worth of arms have been sold in the Persian Gulf region, in which America's share stood at $19 billion and those of Britain and Russia have amounted to respectively $14 and $8 billion. Meanwhile, the U.S. defense secretary's comments, within the context of the West's claim based on its concern over Iran's military buildup, can be merely a propaganda hue and cry aiming at the spread of false fears among the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

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On the same subject, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always described its clear and vivid policy, based on the regional states' cooperation, for collective participation in the maintenance of security of the Persian Gulf region, having denounced the tension-fomenting policies and increasing military buildup of America in the region.

Anyhow, America's past performance in the Persian Gulf region reveals that to that country what is important is to gain dominance over the region's oil resources, aiming to sow discord and to sabotage the expansion of regional cooperation.

U.S. Pressure on Russia Called Failed Effort

NC1905113595 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 May 95 p 2

[Political commentary: "Clinton: A Futile Effort"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. President Bill Clinton's efforts to deter the Russians from transferring nuclear technology to the Islamic Republic of Iran have been in vain. Political and news circles clearly see this failure in their recent comments and views.

Clinton left for Russia on Tuesday [9 May] apparently to participate in the 50th anniversary of VE Day. But most political circles admit that the main objective behind this visit was to warn the Kremlin against nuclear support for Iran—an effort that failed, something even U.S. news circles admitted.

The truth is that U.S. pressure on the Russian Government to deter them from delivering nuclear reactors to the Islamic Republic of Iran does not conform with conventional principles in intergovernmental relations or with international laws. The U.S. objective is to continue the pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran for resisting excessive demands by the United States and the Zionist regime and to keep alive the pretext for not extending the "economic assistance" they promised the Russians five years ago. [passage omitted]

Some political commentators believe U.S. insistence on deterring Moscow from nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran is not to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear arms—the Americans themselves know that Russia's nuclear assistance to Iran is solely for peaceful purposes and the international atomic energy organization's repeated reiteration of this is also proof — but to fight the Islamic Republic of Iran and to propound imaginary reasons for not extending economic assistance to Russia. [passage omitted]

Thus Moscow's approach to the U.S. blackmail and pressure concerning the transfer of nuclear technology to Iran should be considered an effort by a government that wants to resist Washington's excessive demands. Although such a policy is only natural in view of the profits that such economic transactions promise, it can also be considered as a praiseworthy show of resistance of the expansionism and arbitrariness of the U.S. leaders.

Radio: 'Honeymoon' Over Between U.S., Russia

LD1805224895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 18 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton in his two-day visit to Moscow tried to convince Russian authorities to terminate Russian nuclear cooperation with Tehran. But apparently despite all the news fabrications, President Yeltsin did not surrender to the U.S. pressures, and emphasized on the continuance of the cooperation. Apparently Russia is trying to make the White House comprehend that the honeymoon in the U.S.-Russian relations has come to an end and Moscow is no longer willing to implement the policies dictated by the White House in order to receive economic aid from the United States.

Meanwhile, Russia, in its new period of internal transformations, has begun a new phase in its ties with other countries which must seriously be considered and discussed at its appropriate time. Mr. Clinton, after his visit to Moscow, in a visit to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, tried to take action in order to put Russia under pressure by way of having cordial ties with the Ukraine. The adoption of such a policy, in reality, demonstrates the deep unsatisfaction of Washington about Russia's actions.

The matter concerning the extension of NATO toward east Europe and the Chechen affair are among other matters in which the United States and Russia are confronted.

In the opinion of political analysts, in case the United States desires to force Russia to change its policy by cutting its economic aid to Russia and strengthening ties with Russia's neighboring republics, it will obtain completely opposite results because first of all such a policy will lead to the strengthening of the opposition faction to Yeltsin inside Russia, which will finally lead to the coming to power of radical nationalists such as Zhirinovskiy or radical communists such as Zyuganov inside Russia; both of these being disfavorable for Washington. Second, the influence of Russia's ties in the republics of the ex-Soviet Union is so extent that the United States can hardly reach its goals by pressuring them.

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Another important point is that the United States is presently being ignored by its closest allies, namely the European Union and Japan. This factor has basically put the political credibility of the United States, and especially Clinton himself, under question. Therefore, when Clinton is confronted with a no from Yeltsin in Moscow, this matter on the one hand leads to the adoption of a passive position on behalf of the White House, and on the other hand strengthens Yeltsin's position in confronting his opponents.

Analysts of Russian affairs believe that Mr. Yeltsin, by adopting an independent position in respect to President Clinton, demonstrated to his opponents who accused him of siding with the United States that in the new era of U.S.-Russian ties Moscow can take its interests into account and determine its strategy only based on its interests. Presently the United States is situated in conditions in which on one hand it is confronted with the fabrications of the Republicans based on the intensification of pressure on Russia, and on the other hand it is confronted with the intense opposition of his allies who do not consider the implementing of such pressures to be beneficial for world peace because they believe that such pressures will lead to the coming to power of radical elements in Russia and will therefore endanger the world peace.

The resolution of such an equation that can propagandistically disarm the internal Republicans on one hand and prevent the coming to power of radical factions in Russia on the other hand seems very difficult, and almost impossible for President Clinton.

Minister, PRC Official Discuss NPT, Ties

LD1805171695 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 18, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, stepped off for a brief stop-over here on his return trip from Tokyo and in a meeting with Chinese deputy foreign minister reviewed Iran-China relations.

The Chinese official said his government advocates complete destruction of all nuclear weapons possessed by all governments. He said the stumbling block to that goal is the lacuna in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which does not set a deadline for destroying the deadly arsenal.

He also expressed hope that Iran and China would broaden their mutual relations in every area soon.

A joint Iran-China commission is shortly to meet in Beijing at a higher level.

Atomic Energy Head Interviewed on Nuclear Program

LD1805221595 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1825 GMT 18 May 95

[Interview with Dr. Reza Amrollahi, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Rountable" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] We have Dr. [Reza] Amrollahi, the respected vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. Welcome to our program Dr Amrollahi. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How much power and jurisdiction does the International [Atomic Energy] Agency [IAEA] have in preventing the construction of nuclear weapons? What are the limits of its jurisdiction? Furthermore, if a country were to act independently and leave the IAEA and independently acquire the technology for industrial and military purposes, could the IAEA prevent this? What is a country's responsibility towards the IAEA?

[Amrollahi] Most countries of the world are members of the United Nations and the IAEA. It is almost impossible for a country not to be a member of the United Nations or to do what it likes. It is really quite impossible. You might point out that there are countries, such as Israel, that are not signatories to the nuclear weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty. In fact, the whole U.S. commotion is to protect Israel. Israel cannot answer this question: Why is it not signing and implementing the Non-Proliferation Treaty and why is it acting contrary to the treaty? Americans want to protect Israel and, therefore, made a commotion about Iran cooperating with Russia and cooperating with China. However, our cooperation is within the context of the treaty. Only Israel is behaving like this. Of course, there are other countries, such as India and Pakistan, that have not signed the treaty. However, as stated in Article Three of the treaty, the control and supervision of the non-peaceful use of nuclear energy is the IAEA's responsibility. In other words, the IAEA is able to declare that one country or another is using nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes. Then the United Nations could take the necessary steps. In the case of Israel, the IAEA has stated its case, but for some reason the measures are not being implemented against it.

[Correspondent] But doesn't this suggest that these are mere suggestions to the United Nations rather than an instruments of direct pressure?

[Amrollahi] No. It is more than a mere suggestion. I do not want to enter the debate, because it involves a great deal of technical details. However, there is a safeguard

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agreement between the IAEA and all countries. Israel is an IAEA member, but is refusing to sign the safeguard agreement and is not allowing IAEA inspections. Furthermore, we have been proposing for the past 20 years that our region should become a nuclear-free zone. All Middle East countries, except Israel, have agreed with this. Israel is constantly obstructing and causing problems in the region while lying about its peaceful intentions. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Please tell us, how true is U.S. President Clinton's claim about the U.S. success in cancelling part of the military use of those articles and agreement — that is the uranium enrichment — and what is the Islamic Republic of Iran's view on that?

[Amrollahi] You made several references, and I will deal with them one by one.

First, we were not pursuing any military aims. We are not pursuing such an aim now and will not. That must be made most explicit for the whole world.

Second, there was no such thing called a centrifuge. What they have made such a hue and cry about is a pure lie and is merely a propaganda clamor to pretend that Clinton did not return empty- handed from Moscow.

Third, our agreement — which is about a power station — includes the fuel as well. Therefore, there was no fuel requirement for us to seek to enrich uranium, and so on and so forth. Therefore, essentially that was a lie. A purely false propaganda put out by the Americans. Of course, the whole world realized that it was all fabricated by the U.S. State Department.

[Correspondent] Please tell us more about the centrifuge, which, following Clinton's visit to Russia, Americans claim they managed to convince Russians not to provide to Iran. Please give more explanation about that.

[Amrollahi] You see there are a number of methods for enriching uranium, one of which uses the centrifuge. Our contract never included a centrifuge system. I do not know why they did not mention that we wanted to use some other method. Therefore, that indicates that something is brewing. [passage omitted]

That was a matter which was fabricated entirely by the West. I do not want to become too involved with technical matters, but even the centrifuge system could have peaceful applications in nuclear power stations. I do not want to discuss whether this is a good thing or a bad thing, as it was not a part of our deal. But I have a question for the Americans themselves. Why does the United States — making such a claim — itself have more than 100 uranium enriching plants? I could mention here that more than 30 percent of the uranium processed in the United States is more than 90 percent enriched, which can only be used in nuclear [weapons], is not peaceful, and can be used for destructive purposes. We do not know why they spend their money on such activities and why they possess such equipment.

[Correspondent] Thank you. As you mentioned, I think that by raising this issue the United States mainly aims to depict the U.S. President's visit to Russia as useful and fruitful and say that they have managed to cancel the matter.

Dr. Amrollahi, would you kindly say something for our viewers about Iranian-Chinese nuclear cooperation?

[Amrollahi] Yes. Most of our cooperation with China is for the construction of a nuclear power station. There are two 300 megawatt units, small units. China has already implemented them for herself and the units are working. We have concluded an agreement with China for something similar and the preliminary stages have progressed well. We are hoping that the project... [pauses] The projects related to these two power stations are long-term ones. The first unit will take about seven years and the second one about eight years. We are hoping that we can present them to our people in time.

If you allow me I would like to say something about what the Atomic Energy [Organization] is doing in the country at the moment.

[Correspondent] Excuse me, my next question was going to be about the same issue.

[Amrollahi] O.K. I will answer after you ask the question.

[Correspondent] What are the objectives of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization and its future plans?

[Amrollahi] Our future plan is to complete the first Bushehr power station unit with the Russians' help, God willing, in four years. Things are progressing well and they are there working.

Another is the Chinese units which I talked about. But as to what we are doing right now, as you know, we are using nuclear techniques in nuclear agriculture. That is, we have produced many types of wheat; we are working on rice and on insects that can be made sterile with nuclear techniques. We have an agricultural and medical nuclear center in Karaj and I ask you to show them on television so that the people can see what we are doing, since I think these few minutes will not be enough.

An important thing that has been done in the past decade is that we used to bring all the radioactive medicines from abroad. Now, I can tell our people that almost

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95 percent of those are being produced in our own country. The latest ones were gallium and thallium which were commissioned in Karaj and introduced to the market. I want to say that the remaining 5 percent, which we do not produce, are not economically viable. That means that there are only one or two countries in the world [which produce them]. Therefore, if we put the figures together, we see that we are producing various materials such technetium, gallium, thallium, and other radioactive medicines for 8,000 patients per day. We have about 12,000 people under a radiation protection system, such as radiologists and the like or doctors who deal with radioactive materials. We have a gamma-radiation center which sterilizes disposable plastic materials for the country, such as syringes, surgical gloves, etc. The factory works in three shifts and it does major work.

We have worked to produce some types of lasers. We have taken positive steps towards new energy. We have supplied a village with solar power, a large village in the heart of the desert which I believe will be ready in the next month. The village does not have a power line.

In relation to wind power, we have commissioned two units so far, one in Manjil and one in Rudbar. Those going to the north will notice the propellers. We get 1.1 megawatts from the wind, which is cheap and unending energy. I should say free energy.

As for geothermal energy, we are busy right now working in Ardabil and Western Azerbaijan provinces and have had very good results. We are specially most optimistic in Ardabil, where we have even had a gushing spring. God willing, we will tell our viewers about them in time with more detail.

Many types of work are undertaken in the Atomic Energy [Organization] and I wish I had time to talks about all of them. If you allow me, as a good ending I will tell all the world, especially all my compatriots, that our objective in nuclear energy is: First, to have electricity in our country, since it is beneficial for us from the cost point of view. Second, to transfer peaceful technology to our country and enjoy them in our country for peaceful purposes.

Anyhow, we are Muslims and Islam says to pursue knowledge far and beyond. That is why we are seeking that technology. Most importantly, there was a tremendous investment before the revolution and if we just abandon it, we will have failed to use our country's capital, whereas we seek to make better use of such investments.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask you to explain the methods used by the IAEA in its inspection of Iranian nuclear installations and activities.

[Amrollahi] We are a member of the IAEA. We have signed the nuclear Non—Proliferation Treaty and we have an agreement with the IAEA on nuclear safeguard, as have all other countries, as I mentioned in Article Three earlier. It is on this basis that the IAEA comes and inspects our activities. They can immediately announce if any part of any country's activities are not peaceful. Up to now, the IAEA has issued written documents, given many interviews — some of which you may have seen — and on the whole, we have had around 20 cases in which the IAEA secretary general or its experts have emphasized that our activities are peaceful. We would like to tell the world community that if our activities were not peaceful, the IAEA would have said so. The Agency is the source to say that. You see, for example, we heard in their propaganda that Clinton has taken some documents to Yeltsin. Very well, excuse me, what Clinton has can only be some pieces of paper and nothing else. I announce here that whatever document they have, they should give to the IAEA. There are experts at the IAEA who can make logical remarks. It is not acceptable that a few people create some kind of a document for themselves and try to blackmail others with it. Why do they not accept the facts which we mention about Israel, but try to blackmail us using some false papers?

[Correspondent] Thank you very much Dr. Amrollahi for participating in our program.

[Amrollahi] I thank you.

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses Nation on Kashmir, 'Black Day'

BK1805155395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1435 GMT 18 May 95

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] My dear countrymen and Kashmiri mojahedin: peace be upon you. History has shown us a black day when tyrants have attacked our faith. The smoke rising from the holy shrine of Charar Sharif sets our hearts on fire. The spirits of the mojahedin martyred at Charar Sharif are calling us. The entire Islamic world is gripped by deep anguish over this tragedy. The world has witnessed how India is trampling on human dignity in Kashmir. With every step, India is increasing the tension. India's every step is destroying peace in the region.

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Pakistan is being threatened with war. Threats are being made to stop us supporting the Kashmiris, but the question does not arise. India is forcibly occupying Kashmir. Kashmiris demand the right to self-determination from India. The UN resolutions still exist. If they are implemented, then the issue can be solved. The world is witnessing today that Indian rulers have started destroying the holy places of Muslims in a bid to maintain their illegitimate occupation. The history of Muslims testifies that they have tolerated every kind of oppression; however, they have never tolerated the desecration of the shrines of the great saints of God. The exalted dignitary who is taking rest in Charar Sharif [reference to saint Nuruddin Wali, whose shrine was burned] is among the great servants of God who removed the darkness of atheism from South Asia and spread the light of Islam; who prevented human beings from being oppressed; who eliminated animosities and propagated love; and who taught the lesson of peace, tranquillity and justice. This is why not only the Muslims but followers of [all] religions respect the Charar Sharif shrine. Protests over this tragedy were held not only in Pakistan; Muslims and followers of humanity also protested over it in India. Today, I am not addressing the brothers and sisters of Pakistan and Kashmir alone; I would like to address the people and organizations of the world who are working for human rights and who preach for peace and amity. I would like to ask the intellectuals, writers, poets, scholars, and active workers and organizations of human rights to protest this colossal tragedy.

My countrymen, the Government of Pakistan has warned all foreign diplomats stationed in Islamabad that this tragedy will give birth to many more tragedies. Through letters, I have apprised the Muslim and non-Muslim states of the situation. The secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] has been taken into confidence. Pakistan also summoned a meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. We have also apprised the UN secretary general of the situation.

Brothers and sisters, a leadership vacuum prevails in India. The Indian rulers are suffering mental turmoil over the struggle of the Kashmiri people. They are victims of internal weakness. A leadership that is capable of understanding the Kashmir dispute and resolving it does not exist in India. This is why dignity of religion does not exist in India. No holy place is safe, whether it is the Golden Temple of Sikhs, the Babri Mosque of Muslim, Hazrat Bal or Charar Sharif, which has been turned into heaps of ashes. No holy place is safe.

Religious bigotry and the use of force have destroyed Nehru's secular India. The Charar Sharif tragedy has provoked our emotions, but I am proud of the fact that my countrymen have demonstrated patience and restraint and that Muslims have not made any non-Muslim the target of violence — and, God willing, will never do so — because ours is a responsible country. Our religion preaches tolerance. There is no place for hatred and prejudice in our society. We are the champions of human dignity and fundamental rights.

Dear countrymen, India has turned Charar Sharif into a heap of ashes and blamed Pakistan for this and has threatened Islamabad with war. This betrays the perturbation of the Indian leadership. Since we are not perturbed, we have not hurled such threats. The Indian leaders have let loose the reign of terror in Kashmir in consternation at their failure to suppress the uprising in Kashmir. They have announced plans for so-called elections. They have forgotten that the Kashmiri struggle began in the wake of the irregularities in the 1987 elections. Nothing can be achieved from the so-called election farce in 1995. Had there been no leadership crisis in India, the Indian rulers would have tried to resolve the Kashmir problem. What can be achieved from the so-called elections? We are confident that the same kind of crisis that arose after the 1987 elections and earlier ones will arise immediately after these elections. Wisdom demands that unwise policies be abolished. The time has now come for the Indian rulers to recognize the All Parties Hurriyat Conference as the real voice of the Kashmiris. If the de Klerk government in South Africa can hold talks with Nelson Mandela, then why can't the Indian rulers be ready to recognize the All Parties Hurriyat Conference? The time has come for India to initiate negotiations with Pakistan on the procedures for a plebiscite. Our two generations have been held hostage by India for the past half century. The time has come for us to protect the third generation from being made hostage. Since we know that the time for a settlement of this problem has arrived, our president went to India to attend the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and gave them the message that Pakistan desires a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute under international law; however, Pakistan and its people will never betray the Kashmiri people. The time has come for an Indian leader to announce like Nehru that they are ready for a plebiscite, which is the only solution of the Kashmir problem. The torch of freedom cannot be extinguished by engineering tragedies like the one at Charar Sharif, because this torch of freedom has been lit with the blood of martyrs. The shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nuruddin and the holy relics of Bibi Fatima [daughter of Prophet Muhammad] exist in Charar Sharif. The tragedy of Charar Sharif has provoked the feelings of the Muslims of Pakistan and the whole world.

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My dear countrymen, I appeal to you all to offer funeral prayers in absentia tomorrow, Friday [19 May], for the martyrs of Charar Sharif. I appeal to you all to observe Friday as a black day. The black day will be observed tomorrow from Khunjerab Pass to Karachi, from Kiamari to Quetta to protest against the desecration of Charar Sharif, to pay respect to the memory of the martyrs of Charar Sharif, and to express solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren. The national flag will fly at half-mast, but our heads will remain aloft. I appeal to every countryman living in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to come out on Friday to protest against the heart-rending tragedy. O holy warriors waging the liberation war in Kashmir, every Pakistani citizen is with you. None can prevent you from reaching your goal of freedom. Neither you nor we can be frightened. They, who have stooped to lowly actions, have got frightened by our courage. No one will forgive this ignoble activity — neither any Kashmiri, nor any Pakistani, nor any Muslim, nor any of the Muslim saints whose shrines have been razed to the ground will forgive them. God enjoins in the holy Koran: We also shower punishments for tyrants from heaven. They set fire to the Charar Sharif shrine to burn it down, to turn into ashes the determination of the Kashmiris, but the flickers of this fire have kindled the path for freedom. They have lighted the path on which the Kashmiri youths are marching forward following in the footsteps of the holy warriors — the holy warriors who have lit the torch of freedom with their blood. God willing, this fire of hatred will burn those tyrants to ashes as well. Long live the holy warriors of Kashmir! Long live Pakistan!

Spokesman on Indian Claims, Nuclear Ties With Iran

BK1805133795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan, taking strong exception to statements made by Indian leaders who claim to have evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the desecration of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali Shrine in Charar Sharif, termed it a crude attempt to deflect international condemnation of Indian responsibility. A Foreign Office spokesman at the regular weekly press briefing said the allegations of Pakistani involvement are concocted. The spokesman said the Indian Government has not been able to explain why it had to use such an excessive force to crush a handful of militants despite assurances by its leaders that the sanctity of the shrine will be observed. He said India will not succeed in hiding the fact and will pay heavily for committing excesses against the people of Kashmir:

[Begin spokesman recording] The people of Kashmir have already rejected Indian charges against Pakistan and have convincingly testified that the desecration of the shrine was a premeditated act on the part of the Indian authorities. The will of the people of Kashmir cannot be broken by these reprehensible actions. [end recording]

The spokesman also denied having any cooperation with Iran in the nuclear field. He was commenting on an article which appeared recently in THE WASHINGTON POST claiming that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto halted cooperation with Iran in this field.

Sri Lanka

Government: State of 'War' Exists With Rebels

BK1805160795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Government today declared that it is at war with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The Air Force shelled LTTE-held areas in the east after troops expanded the defense line in the north.

The constitutional affairs minister, Professor G.L. Peiris, told the press conference in Colombo after a cabinet meeting that the government has been offered material support by several governments in its war efforts. The minister, however, declined to name the countries. He said at the same time the government is going ahead with its peace proposals and began the process with a meeting with Tamil political parties yesterday. Professor Peiris said that the LTTE has resorted to war even without looking at the political package prepared by the government to resolve the ethnic issue.

Meanwhile, at another press conference, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization — TELO — called upon the government to bring the LTTE back to the negotiating table.

President Kumaratunga Interviewed on Peace Process

BK1005125095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Apr 95 p 13

["Full text" of interview with President Chandrika Kumaratunga by Lucien Rajakarunanayake, Sri Lankan Rupavahini television journalist, televised on 27 April; place and date of interview not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Question:** As you know the situation has changed since I last interviewed you when the peace process was fresh and there was a great deal of hope in the minds of the people. How do you explain

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the decision by the Tigers to break the cessation of hostilities at this stage?

Answer: I think you last interviewed me about four months ago, a little about four months ago. Well, it is a very long story, but to put it very briefly, I am beginning to believe that even though the Tamil people desire peace very passionately, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] never wanted peace, unfortunately, and maybe there is a terrific fear of peace on the part of the LTTE leaders. There is almost a paranoia about peace and this is seen if one has studied the actions of the LTTE and its leader or leaders. This is clearly evident. We were hoping that we knew this. We had calculated for it. It is not that we are starry eyed, only looking at the stars. But we knew that the Chemistry of the whole situation has changed since we took over and that for the first time in the history of the ethnic question. The Tamil people in the North and East and the rest of the country had immense confidence in the Government at the centre and that they did not fear as they had done under the previous regimes; that the people believed that if a political solution was obtained to the ethnic question that [as published] they would be looked after by the Government. So this was a very strong point in favour of peace.

Question: You said Madam that you were not starry eyed. Does that mean that the Government expected this kind of action by the LTTE, were the security forces prepared for this kind of development or are you now stating that the trust you placed in the LTTE and it's leadership has been misguided?

Answer: Not quite. We placed our complete trust in the People. The Sinhala people who wanted peace and in the Tamil people and all the other people living in this country. We knew what the LTTE was. We did not believe that the LTTE would suddenly become little angels. But as I was just now saying the whole chemistry of the question had changed, and we thought that the question therefore would change, that a ruthless LTTE which saw only war as a solution right through would perhaps be persuaded by its people to begin to think differently and act differently. But I still believe that this will happen in the course of time because one cannot change the course of history. These I think are hiccups on the way to peace.

Question: So soon after the cessation of hostilities agreement was blasted by the LTTE your Government reimposed a fairly large number of economic embargo on Jaffna and the Northern areas. Do you think the Tamil people in the North will not be alienated again by the reimposition of the economic sanctions?

Answer: Well, there is a possibility but we have almost no other option because we have not placed an embargo on food items and other things. We lifted the embargo on three phases. We first lifted the embargo on 28 items. Second on 16 items and the next time on 19 items. We have replaced the embargo on the last lot of 19 items each one of which could be used militarily. We lifted the embargo because there was sort of temporary cessation of hostilities, and also to show the people and specially the Tigers our goodwill, but obviously the Tigers did not understand. And we cannot at a time as hostilities had begun continue to provide them with possible material for bombs and other things.

Question: Have you got the machinery to make sure that the other items which are not on the embargo list can really reach people of Jaffna?

Answer: I will not, if I said yes, completely, I will not be saying the truth. One must not forget that the military which is supposed to implement these things had been at war with the LTTE for 12 years. The LTTE has been ruthless against them. I am not saying that the army were perfect little angels. They have both been very hostile to each other and even though the government sits in Colombo and lifts the embargo they have to be implemented. [sentence as published] There were many cases we found out where they have not been very enthusiastically letting these things go. But as soon as we heard it from the LTTE we indirectly — actually they did not bother to write to us and tell us this, but when we heard this indirectly — we checked up and found that out of 50 lorries only 16 were going in a day from Thandikulam pass and immediately I requested the Deputy Minister Mr. Anuruddha Ratwatte, the Army Commander and my Secretary Mr. Balapatabendi to go with the Secretary of Defence to go there and make arrangements and they opened two other points of passage for the lorries and as many as 60-70 lorries were going per day. So there were problems like this, but whenever we knew about them, we made arrangements. We opened new CWE [Cooperative Wholesale Establishment] outlets at Thandikulam on either side. We opened up new ones in some areas in Jaffna, where the army close to Palali where the Tamil people in the Tiger occupied areas can come and buy their stuff. All these things were done in order to facilitate the distribution of goods.

Question: What you were saying Madam is that there were no deliberate bottlenecks imposed by the Government or by the administration?

Answer: Certainly not. In fact we even sent civilians to be with the military people, administrative service officers, at these points where lorries and things were

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going in order to ensure that would be some kind of neutral surveillance of what is going on. [sentence as published]

Question: Had the Peace Committees which were to be appointed under the cessation of hostilities agreement functioned, could they have seen to these obstructions?

Answer: Of course, but the LTTE consistently and vehemently opposed the committees functioning.

Question: They have never met really? They have never had the occasion to operate as peace committee. [no answer as published]

Question: Madam, in the Government's initial statement after the LTTE broke the cessation of hostilities agreement, you said that your government is still committed to the peace process. How can this be possible in the context of the current plight?

Answer: Well you see as you said in that same statement we see the current hostility only as a temporary setback to the final peace we are trying to achieve.

Question: How far backward is this step?

Answer: Oh, it is many steps back. Most peace processes where there has been so much of bad blood between the two sides. [sentence as published] It is like this. History has taught us this is not an unusual situation. You know how many long years the PLO and the Israelis took to come to any kind of agreement. The British government has been talking with the IRA for at least two years. And it is only yesterday or something, for the first time a minister has gone. They refused — the British government refused to sit down and discuss with the IRA until they laid down arms symbolically and I must say we have given many many concessions and I shall use the word concession even though the LTTE does not seem to like it, which no other government has given in similar circumstances. And this was not because we were weak. But because we were utterly and totally committed to peace. We were willing to give peace the maximum chance while we were keeping up our military alert. We have not for a moment betrayed the country or the people like previous UNP [United National Party] regimes which gave absolutely conflicting signals all the time to the military and to the LTTE and the right hand did not know what the left hand was doing and the right hand thumb did not know what the index finger was doing. We have a consistent and clear policy where we have told the army we are at peace, and you have to convert yourselves into armies for peace rather than war, but do not let down your alertness. We did not withdraw one inch. We only froze in the position that we were in the camps in the detachment. Only Pooneryn, having discussed with the military and with that total agreement we agreed to move it back five hundred meters because that was a contentious point. Nowhere else have we moved one inch backwards. We just froze in our position and that was the cessation of hostilities agreement that they also froze in their position.

Question: At the same time Madam, there are reports that once the LTTE sent its letter or message that it is getting way from cessation of hostilities agreement that proper instructions had not gone down to the ground level and that is why this sort of thing happened in Trincomalee. Is that correct?

Answer: No, because I received the message a little before 9.30 that evening. They had hand delivered the letter to my Secretary. And he rang me up while in fact I was at a Central Committee Meeting of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party]. At 9.30 pm and immediately without telling the Central Committee first, I rang up all the three services commanders, the IGP [Inspector General of Police], and told all of them the cessation of hostilities has been called off. Instruct your forces to be on maximum alert. Within 15 minutes the army, navy, air force and the police were alerted by me and kept ringing them up the whole night. And they all rang me back. In fact the Navy commander rang several times asking for further instructions. It was because he was worried that the fishing ban would be lifted. His boats were all out at sea and could have been attacked. It was something he was always worried about when we lifted the fishing ban and various instructions were decided upon. And we heard at 1.00 o'clock these two boats had been blasted. Actually they were not boats, we were very careful that the boats at sea were alerted. These two boats were berthed in the inner harbour of Trincomalee — a highly security area so that [they] did not need any specific instructions to be given, you know, to be protected. Now we have appointed a Commission of Inquiry to find out whether there were any lapse on the part of the relevant officers. Quite clearly within 15 minutes I gave instructions to all of them and we were all on the alert, Mr. Anuruddha Ratwatte, Deputy Minister was out in fact in the operational area that night. I even gave instruction to send a helicopter early in the morning to pick him up and bring him back. So everything that was needed to be done was done.

Question: Now to move on to another area of politics, the Leader of the opposition has said the UNP, the largest party in the Opposition, was not kept informed of the peace process and the negotiations. Is this true? And if so, how was it?

Answer: Well, this makes me laugh and I think it deserves a loud laugh. First because that leader of the Opposition when he was the Prime Minister and

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Senior Minister in the UNP cabinet for 17 years of which there was a war — the same war — raging for 12 years, at no point of time did they ever bother to keep the Opposition informed. They even signed the Indo-Sri Lanka Pact without telling the Opposition. The Opposition was informed specially the SLFP was informed after it was signed. I remember recently when Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe was Prime Minister I had occasion to ring the then President on behalf of my mother, the Leader of the Opposition. She wrote two letters to the then President who was also the Commander-in-Chief complaining that the Opposition was never informed of the situation. Didn't even have the courtesy of replying. After the 2nd letter when I rang up and reminded them, they sent a letter saying, yes, we have received your letter. We will do something to ameliorate the situation, but nothing was done to such an extent when there were very serious reports, intelligence reports, that some of us were in danger from the Tigers or otherwise. They didn't even bother to inform us or our security officers.

Question: But since you are not following UNP policy, was there a situation which required Mr. Wickremasinghe to be informed?

Answer: That is why I met him. When I heard that he had tried to ring me once, I rang him up, gave him an appointment and we met. And had a long chat with him, that is because we are different. That does not mean within two hours I should go running and inform him or anybody else because there were more important things to do.

Question: He had been apprised?

Answer: He had been apprised in great detail.

Question: There is criticism in various quarters that you had not devoted sufficient time to the peace process and also to the task of government. What have you to say now? It is a frequent comment.

Answer: Not only insufficient time. There are some people who say that I am not serious about governing.

Question: Yes, that is also being said?

Answer: Well, it has only being said by one journalist as far as I know. An amateur journalist who writes in a weekend tabloid. Secondly, that weekend tabloid happens to be 60% [of] the shares of that newspaper is owned by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, it was commenced just a few months before the General Election when he knew he was canvassing to be the Presidential candidate soon after. So, I do not take this seriously. His political affiliations are so suspect that it would be only surprising that if that journalist did not say that. I would also like to mention that [the] journalist has had a history in the last 15 years or while he worked for a Sinhala newspaper as a cub-reporter [as published] first. Then he worked for a Sunday National Newspaper and now is leading Mr. Gamini Dissanayake's newspaper as the editor. He has for reasons unknown to me his favourite pastime had been Chandrika bashing, so I don't take it seriously at all.

Question: But all the same ownership of newspapers apart, the nature of the newspaper and the person apart, what have you to say about this statement that you do not have enough time?

Answer: I don't know what he means by enough time. I work from 7.30 in the morning till 10.00 o'clock minimum in the night. Some times 11 o'clock with just 20 minutes, maximum half an hour in between, for lunch and absolutely no break in between. That is about 16 hours a day. I think to such an extent that people around me, officials and everybody else, who come to see me, politicians even of the Opposition, have begun to tell me that before I break down physically that I should re-organize myself in such a way that I do not work so much so. I do not think that we could have done what we have done in this short time if the head of state did not work like this. And also I think that they have said that I have not devoted enough time to the peace process. That is a joke. I think in the last 5 months, two or three months after I assumed responsibility as President, I have devoted about at least 35% of my working time, Saturdays and Sundays included, to the peace process and this is while being Minister of Defence and does not mean only the situation in the North East and being Minister of Finance and Planning. [sentence as published]

Question: You feel satisfied that you have given enough time for the peace process and for the task of government?

Answer: I do not think any other human being, man or woman could have given any more time to the function of being President.

Question: There is also a view among many, I do not know whether it is by the same journalist you referred to earlier, but there is a view among many that the government's negotiating team which went to Jaffna were really no match for the tried and tested teams from the LTTE. That is one. In fact the recent statement of the LTTE says there was no person who could take a decision on matters of policy with the negotiators. In the context of such observations what would you think of doing if there are future negotiations?

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Answer: In the first place the accusation is totally — absolutely nonsense. Because every single time they went to Jaffna — it was only four times — the delegation was led by the Secretary to the President. I do not see how they could expect a second level delegation to be any more serious. He is the Secretary to the President. The most important administrative officer in the country and he is Secretary to the President and, it is also well- known in all political circles that the gentleman concerned, has been very close to me politically, and personally for more than 25 years. So when the Tigers say, in fact what you say has been issued in a statement by the LTTE. [sentence as published]

Interviewer: [as published] Yes, in the latest statement also they say it.

Answer: Perfectly so. That is what I am referring to — by the LTTE headquarters, where they say that the delegation was so weak that there was nobody who could take decisions. This is totally false and they are pretending to be babies when they knew who was leading the delegation. There may have been other people in the delegation at various times — we used various people depending on what we were going to talk. When we were talking about reconstruction it was engineers, architects, accounts [as published] who went. Then when we were talking more at the level of politics, there were more political people who went, politically minded people who have studied this issue at great length for many years, accompanied by the Military whenever Military issues were discussed. So there was a very clear stand. I do not know what sort of people they wanted us to have included otherwise.

Question: Were there any contentious issues which the LTTE referred to you which could not have been settled by the people who went for the negotiation?

Answer: In any case they went on very clear instructions from the government and from me. Lot of issues were settled. There were new issues which they raised. Which we could not settle and which they did not have the mandate to settle without talking with me and the government. So at those ones we do not expect — I do not understand this rubbish. When a delegation goes to talk unless the government and the President and the Cabinet itself goes, how do you expect people to give answers immediately to every question? When we knew what the questions were, the delegation was appraised of what they should agree to. When new matters arose and quite justifiably it does in this type of negotiations they came back and said we come back to you on that and sometimes we wrote to them within 24 hours or whatever was possible. [paragraph as published]

Question: Madam! in the course of the negotiations you wrote to the LTTE and offered the use of a foreign intermediary at least for contact between you and Mr. Prabhakaran which was rejected by the LTTE at that stage. And I believe they stated if the talks break down they could think in terms of having such a person.

Answer: No, they did not say that, they didn't say that last sentence. They don't think a foreign intermediary is necessary - that we could talk directly with each other.

Question: Now that the talks have apparently broken down is there room for any foreign intermediary?

Answer: Well, as far as we are concerned there is, but I don't believe that the LTTE would like it.

Question: What do you know of the LTTE's reactions from whatever intelligence there is of the new diplomatic statements that are being made about the fighting that has started?

Answer: I don't know what their reactions are. I can only guess for the moment. I don't have factual information yet. They would not like it obviously, I think they would like very much to stop me from having any contact with foreign countries with whatever are there at their disposal, whatever means, and I believe that the last paragraph of this famous press release is not truthful and I believe that it is only there for foreign consumption. This is saying that the LTTE has not closed its mind or its doors towards and eventual durable peace. I do not believe it at all because for six long months we have written — fortunately, we have everything in writing — over 40 letters now. I did not want to issue them until now so as not to embarrass the LTTE. We only issued little bits and extracts from them or some letters though I did promise the press to issue that whole lot. And then we thought about it twice and this was because again so as not to embarrass the LTTE. They were going back on lot of things which they said in those letters. And at no point have they agreed that they will sit down and talk about a political settlements to the war.

Question: They mention about the ceasefire in this latest statement of theirs. That the government did not agree to a ceasefire although they had wanted a ceasefire.

Answer: I think what you mean is that they have said that the LTTE from its very inception called for a mutual declaration of ceasefire. It is totally false. You know this statement contains one or two misconceptions and many many inaccuracies. One of them is that at no point in none of those letters have they called for a mutual declaration of ceasefire or any declaration of ceasefire. It was I who suggested a ceasefire somewhere in December when I wrote to the LTTE in December

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or November last. And not they. They readily agreed because they knew they wanted a ceasefire because the military was at that time stronger than the LTTE and it was we who continuously said that a cessation of hostilities is different from — slightly different — from a ceasefire and the LTTE first kept mixing up the two and confused the two in their letters. And we insisted and said that they are two different things. Cessation is a temporary phase, a ceasefire is a much more permanent, official and definite thing, and finally they said we still don't agree with you, but let us not argue those details. Let us first start off with ceasefire and see; so it was not they who suggested. It was we.

Question: Madam, why was the political package not sent to the LTTE? It was not sent to the LTTE for very definite and calculated reasons again. Because knowing the psychology of the LTTE or what we have guessed of it. We wanted the LTTE to be the first to know about the package. We did all but beg the LTTE to give us dates to start talking about the package. They kept refusing giving all kinds of excuses and each time a different reason for it. And additional reasons, and additional conditions and we wanted to give the LTTE the privilege of seeing the package first and reacting to it.

Interviewer: [as published] Why?

Answer: Giving us their amendments or whatever suggested amendments because the LTTE was the major player as far as the Tamil people were concerned in this game. But I constantly had discussions with the other Tamil groups and parties, with the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the UNP and I had informed them that we will not be telling them the details of the package simply because of the reasons I said and they had all accepted it. I said yes, let the LTTE have the privilege of seeing it first. But we had also agreed that if the LTTE was not going to agree to discuss the peace package by the first of June or just any date that we gave ourselves because I started talking about by the end of December — six months — if they were not willing to discuss it, then we were going to make it public and discuss it with other people and send it to the LTTE all the same whether they wanted to receive it or not.

Question: Will you now make it public?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How soon will it be? [paragraph as published]

Question: Do you think Madam, that the present confrontation with the LTTE could be described as the Eelam war III or has the Eelam war III begun?

Answer: No, I definitely think it has not yet begun and I hope it won't. I hope the LTTE will not push us into that. Up to now we have contained it from becoming Eelam war III. We have given specific instructions to the Military to only retaliate.

When we have been attacked and we are attacking sometimes in very limited way in defence and containing it to very small attacks even though the military is capable of much bigger attacks even at this moment and here I must mention that there is another criticism of the government that we are not prepared. This is again absolute bunkum because we are not any less prepared than we were in August 77 when we took over the government.

Interviewer: [as published] 94.

August 1994, we did not as I told you earlier reduce that preparedness of the government by one inch. We did not increase it because of the peace process and it would have been dishonest to do it. Whereas the Tigers very dishonestly kept building up in the last one month of the cessation. [paragraph as published]

Question: The LTTE also said that you all also began recruiting troops?

Answer: We have not recruited one single person. This is much easier to prove. We caught when I was in Trincomalee — we caught a little boat of 33 young people all between the ages of 12 and 13 being taken from Vakarai Batticaloa to the North. They did not tell exactly what point. We had been a bit unsure because there were some people there, because I was at hand and we filmed it and I talked to them in Tamil — I did not but some others — and they said that we are going from Vakarai to Jaffna to be trained and that if we stopped them they would take cyanide and they were going on training like this and our assessment was that they trained about thousand people from the East during this period. They started new camps in the East and we had definite information and aerial photographs of this about two weeks before they struck and we were already taking necessary steps to contain them rather than attack them before they attacked us.

Question: There are some proposals being made at the moment from various quarters that it is now the time for a national government. This has been said several times earlier but it is coming out again that it is time for a national government and this system — it should be headed by the Hon. [honorable] Prime Minister. What do you say to this proposal? Are we at a stage where we need a national government?

Answer: Well, at the moment every political party of every hue, colour, and race is in the government except

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the UNP. This would only mean bringing the UNP in. At the moment I do not think that is feasible because the UNP still consists of the same people who ran one of the crookish, one of the most murderous, one of the most disastrous governments — not one of, but the most — that this country has ever known in its 2500 year history and I do not see how it is the same individuals it is the same people. It has not changed in any way. I do not see how we could compromise with a group of people like that. And I do not see any necessity to bring them in to the government to solve this problem. Because for 12 long years they mixed it up so much I do not see any reason how they could contribute to ameliorate the causes.

Question: There are two parts of my question. One is that the need for a national government — the next is that it should be headed by the Hon. Prime Minister and not by you.

Answer: That is left for the party and the country to decide that they want somebody else to lead the government other than me, I would certainly not hesitate for a moment. But just because a 3rd rate tabloid paper mentioned this I certainly will not even think about it.

Question: Madam, the people of this country have given you quite clearly a mandate for peace on three different occasions and three different elections and finally at the Presidential poll, that is with a 62% majority. You still have that mandate for peace after what has happened.

Answer: I hope we do. I am keeping my fingers crossed because for the first time in the history of this country since ethnic relations were muddied there was an excellent chance for peace. The Tigers and the Tigers alone have messed up that chance. They have betrayed their own people before they had betrayed anybody else because I know the Tamil people in the North and East as much as the Tamil people in the rest of the country want peace. The Tigers are exclusively and solely responsible for the breakdown of the peace process at the moment and I can only hope that all the people in this country who gave us a mandate for peace will still be a little patient because the peace process is not yet over.

Question: What message do you have to give the people who have given you the mandate and may be those who have not given you the mandate in the new crisis?

Answer: There is one clear message which is that peace cannot be achieved in a day or two as I have constantly said and many situations where in the rest of the world where we have seen between different countries between various groups within the same country have taken decades and our country is no different. Just because there is this temporary setback that does not mean that anybody Mr. Prabhakaran, Chandrika Kumaratunga or anybody in this country can I think or nobody has the right to deny the people their most cherished dream at the moment which is peace and I think the forces of history would be such that peace will finally win. But until then we have to be patient, we have to be alert we have to work towards peace. We cannot only hope and pray for peace. In the meantime I have one other message for the people, that is that we are the government, we will not forget that for a moment and as much as we are committed to peace, we are also committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the country and the security of the people and we will not forget that for a moment. If we are attacked we will attack and we have strength to do that, we are only appealing to the LTTE not to push the country to the brink of a Eelam war again.

Question: Is there any particular message that you have to give to the people in the North today who probably have the biggest hopes for peace and are now finding themselves in a totally different situation?

Answer: We feel very much for the North who once again are the people who suffer the most from the situation, not the LTTE, not the government, not anybody else. Well again to actively to desire peace not to lose heart that if they desire peace strongly enough they will some day triumph over the war mongers. [sentence as published] They will have to actively practically see that peace triumphs.

Question: You mean they will have to triumph over the LTTE off their backs?

Answer: They will have to try to persuade the LTTE to accept what their people want and not betray the people. Their own people.

Question: You think the government which is functioning in the South will give necessary help to the people of the North to do that?

Answer: We will give all support because we are a government that has got a mandate against terrorism, a mandate against the violation of human rights, human freedoms in the South and in the North. In the South we have won and in the North the people of the North will have to also see to it. We don't mind if Mr. Prabhakaran becomes a leader of the Democratic Northern Sri Lanka so the people of the North will have to see that they persuade him to come to that situation until they find another alternative.

Question: Thank you Madam, Thank you for the time.

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